

FREE

# Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk August 20, 2017

Mid edition No 778

## CRIME

### Dispute over police cameras

Group demands greater transparency over effectiveness

## RIP

### Tributes paid to council leader

County mourns passing of Tory stalwart

## CONTEST

### Meet inspirational Miss Kent 2017

Remarkable story of beating tragedy and trauma

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# Kent on Sunday

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## Why we must not let the 'losers' be empowered

TRYING to find some common ground with American president Donald Trump has never been an easy task. And this week it got a whole lot tougher courtesy of his ill thought out comments following the protests in Virginia.

His use of the most basic English (you cannot keep simply describing people who criticise you as "very bad people") is also the complete opposite to the glorious eloquence of Barack Obama. Regardless of your political views, Obama's extraordinary oratory skills reeked of intelligence and sensible contemplation. Trump's of a man who has a perpetual itchy trigger finger.

But Trump did once describe Isis as "losers". At first I remember thinking this was the latest scraping of that empty vocabularily barrel of his. But in fact, he was quite right to do so. Because we are in danger of playing into the terrorists' hands with our constant



Editor **Chris Britcher**

wall-to-wall coverage of what they are doing.

Every attack, every incident is met with tales of how dangerous our streets are becoming, and how it is impossible to defend ourselves.

Every attack comes with scenes of gun-tottin' delusional young people believing martyrdom is the reward for killing as many people as possible.

We make ourselves scared of these people when in fact that is all they have over us. I read one critic once describing them as nothing more than violent thugs. It is simple but absolutely correct.

Trump, unbelievably, is right to have called them 'losers' for that is exactly the sort of low level playground jibe they deserve. It carries no strength and no power. It just makes them look stupid. Which, of course, is exactly what they are.

Trump, on this one and only occasion, you were quite right.

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# Enjoy Medway Summer Family Activities



## OUTDOOR THEATRE

With Rochester Castle and Upnor Castle as the backdrop, there is no better stage to watch enthralling performances this summer.

### 30 AUGUST PRIDE & PREJUDICE AT ROCHESTER CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.chapterhouse.org/>

Gates open: 6.30pm; Performance starts: 7.30pm

Take a step back in time with Chapterhouse Theatre Company to meet Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Austen's most loveable heroine. When Elizabeth meets the rude and abrupt Mr Darcy, she loathes him at first sight. But is there more to him than meets the eye? Brought to life by award winning writer Laura Tuner, this brand-new adaptation celebrates the 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen's death and promises to be the most splendid evening of the summer.

So, join friends and family as you picnic under a beautiful summer sky and lose yourself in this unforgettable love story. After all, it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

### 30 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN LIZZIE & DARCY CHARACTER CRAFTS IN TOWER TWO 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of *Pride & Prejudice*, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Lizzie or Darcy?

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two, Rochester Castle

### 31 AUGUST PETER PAN AT UPNOR CASTLE

For tickets <http://www.chapterhouse.org/>

Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm

Chapterhouse Theatre Company are delighted to present an all new production of *Peter Pan*. Join Wendy, Michael and John Darling on their adventures with Peter, far away on the magical island of Neverland.

There they encounter the enchanting mermaids, magical fairies and the cruellest pirate of them all, Captain Hook. Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French and in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, J.M.Barrie's timeless classic is brought to life in a brand new adaptation by award winning writer Laura Turner, with beautifully designed costumes, music and songs. Join Peter and his friends for what promises to be the most magical evening of the summer.

All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

### 31 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN PETER PAN CHARACTER CRAFTS IN THE BARRACK BLOCK, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM

Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of *Peter Pan*, written by JM Barrie, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Peter, Wendy, Tinkerbell or Hook?

80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle



## ROCHESTER CASTLE

### ROCHESTER CASTLE CELEBRATION TRAIL

Take part in our heritage trail around the keep looking for clues to find out why Rochester Castle is celebrating this year for a chance to win a small prize.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

### FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES

Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own medieval masterpieces. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, free entry to Tower Two.

**MAKE YOUR OWN JESTER'S HAT** 22 Aug

**MAKE YOUR OWN KING OF THE CASTLE CROWN** 31 Aug

**MAKE YOUR OWN MINI SIEGE ENGINE** 24 Aug

**MAKE YOUR OWN SWORD & SHIELD** 15 Aug & 29 Aug

**MAKE YOUR OWN MEDIEVAL BRACELET** 17 Aug

## UPNOR CASTLE



### BATTLE OF MEDWAY TRAIL

Sun 30 July – Sun 3 Sept, 10am-6pm  
(last admission 5.15pm)

Take part in our trail around the castle looking for clues to find out what happened at Upnor Castle during the Battle of Medway for a chance to win a small prize.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

### MAKE YOUR OWN COLOURFUL CRITTER

Wed 23 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm

Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own Colourful Critter. There are four to collect or you can design your own. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

80p per child, plus admission fee.

### PAINTING THE BATTLE OF MEDWAY

with artist Kevin Clarkson Mon 21 Aug & Wed 30 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm

Local artist Kevin Clarkson meticulously researched the Battle of Medway to create several new paintings of the events at Upnor in 1667 for our anniversary commemorations this year. Join Kevin on site to draw your own Battle of Medway masterpiece.

### BATTLE OF MEDWAY MINI DRAMA SCHOOL

Wed 23 Aug - Thur 24 Aug, 10am -3.30pm

Play on Words presents an amazing opportunity for budding stars of the stage to work with professional actors in a unique venue this Summer Holiday. Over two days you will learn all about creating and acting in a play, and the Mini Drama School will end with a performance for family and friends.

The two-day school costs £40. To book your place, contact [info@playonwordstheatre.com](mailto:info@playonwordstheatre.com) or 07971512209

### DRAW A MINI MASTERPIECE

Fri 1 Sept, 10.30am -3.30pm

Join our hands-on family craft activity to draw your own mini masterpiece inspired by the Battle of Medway.



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## Helicopter patrols rise to protect our railway lines

By Chris Britcher

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NETWORK Rail is ramping up helicopter patrols across the county this month amid a sharp increase in the number of incidents on our railway lines.

Crime on the south east's railway has cost the taxpayer-funded firm - responsible for rail infrastructure - some £20 million over the last three years, with trespassing, vandalism and theft key concerns.

In Kent, where trains are powered by the 750v conductor rail, the power has to be turned off when people trespass on the line, causing huge delays for passengers.

Trespassing has hit a six-year high with officials saying in one incident a family complete with pushchair and child were spotted by the line.

Now extra patrols, which will see staff joined by British Transport Police (BTP) officers, will be operating in a bid to crack down on the problem.

Network Rail's chief operating officer in the south east, Andy Derbyshire, said: "Crime on the



**FLIGHT:** BTP officers will join crews in Kent's skies to alert patrols to anyone on the tracks

railway delays passengers, hurts the economy and costs the rail industry millions of pounds every year. That's money that we'd all much rather was spent on maintaining and improving the network.

"We know the summer months see an increase in trespassing. With the major work we have going on this August bank holiday, we need to use every tool at our disposal to keep any disruption to passengers to a minimum.

"Our helicopter will be patrolling known crime hotspots and this weekend they'll be taking a BTP officer up with them. They will be able to directly liaise with units on the ground to tackle any crime they see."

Inspector Becky Warren said: "We're determined that the rail network remains a safe and secure place for people to travel and work. Every day, we police the journeys of more than six million passengers, making sure everyone gets home

safe, secure and on time.

"This operation alongside Network Rail gives us another way to ensure the railways are kept safe throughout the busy summer holiday period."

In one incident recently in Norbury in south London, a trespasser on the tracks caused delays to more than 100,000 passengers between Victoria and the south coast, as 800 trains were disrupted.

## Brexit claims 260 jobs as salad firm is tossed into administration

SOME 260 jobs have been lost at food supplier Southern Salads after the Brexit-hit pound forced the company into administration.

FRP Advisory has been appointed administrators of the Tonbridge-based firm, which will cease trading immediately, leaving hundreds of staff out of work.

The family-run company operated for 30 years, weathering "competitive pricing pressures from supermarkets and other retail chains", and had invested heavily in its production facilities in 2014.

However, the expected increase in turnover never materialised following those investments, and the business was not able to ride out the effects of the Brexit vote which increased the cost of overseas greens.

"Despite successfully producing over 50 tonnes of salad per day for its array of customers, the company faced an unprecedented pressure on cash flow in the immediate aftermath of last summer's EU referen-

dum vote," joint administrator and FRP Advisory partner Ian Vickers said.

"The sudden decline in sterling was not foreseen by the company, leaving the business grappling with an immediate fall of between 10 per cent and 20 per cent in its purchasing power for overseas-grown salads required for the winter and early spring UK market, which in turn put a severe strain on cash-flow."

Market jitters have resulted in a major devaluation of the pound in the wake of the Brexit vote, with the UK currency dropping more than 16 per cent from its pre-referendum high of 1.31 against the euro to lows of 1.09.

Remain-voting MP for Tonbridge and Malling, Tom Tugendhat, said he was "sorry to see a recognisable, family run Tonbridge business stop trading".

FRP said its "immediate priority" would be to help all staff who were made redundant as a result.

## Union's hopes high of fewer casualties of Asda review

UNION chiefs say they are "hopeful" of reducing redundancies at Asda stores where the supermarket giant is planning to wield the axe - among them one in Kent.

The Broadstairs branch is one of 18 stores identified as 'underperforming', according to the GMB union, and where a consultation process is under way.

It is thought reviews of staffing in

dozens of other stores are also under review.

Gary Carter, GMB national officer, said: "Following a meeting with Asda senior management, we are now hopeful we can dramatically reduce the number of redundancies the company makes. We will continue to do everything possible to fight our members' corner."

## Rees-Mogg meets shoppers in whistle-stop city visit

JACOB Rees-Mogg, the Conservative MP tipped by many to become the next leader of his party, was spotted in Canterbury on Thursday.

The backbencher, who has represented the North East Somerset constituency since 2010 and appeared on Have I Got News For You, was snapped talking to shoppers in the high street around lunchtime.

In 2007, he married Helena de Chair at Canterbury Cathedral, while his mother-in-law, Lady Juliet Tadgell, lives on the Bourne Park estate just outside the city.

Bookmakers rate the Brexiteer as fifth favourite to become the next prime minister, behind Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn and fellow Tories David Davis, Boris Johnson and Philip Hammond.



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## MP to face trial in May over election expenses

CONSERVATIVE MP Craig Mackinlay will go on trial next year on charges over his expenses during the 2015 general election in South Thanet.

The politician who faces a jury trial, is accused of offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983 alongside campaign director Marion Little, 62, and election agent Nathan Gray, 28.

Mr Mackinlay, 50, of Sion Hill, Ramsgate, appeared at Southwark Crown Court on Tuesday morning.

Mr Justice Edis said their trial would begin on May 14 at Southwark, and was estimated to last six weeks.

The trio are yet to enter their pleas.

Mr Mackinlay won his seat in 2015 and increased his majority in June.

## Is Whitehall review set to give our firms bigger say in economic future?

By Tom Pyman

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BUSINESSES in Kent could have a bigger say in identifying economic priorities around the county as the government reviews the work of bodies established to drive growth in the area.

The role of dozens of local enterprise partnerships (LEPs), including SELEP in the south east, is being discussed by ministers this summer, with chiefs hoping it will result in increased responsibilities and power for firms.

The success of SELEP - set up in 2011 to help lead job creation, enable house building and promote a stronger skills agenda for the region's combined economy - has seen business have a genuine seat at the table in discussions over multi-million and sometimes multi-billion pound developments.

It is understood plans on the future of the roles of LEPs will go out for consultation later this year.



**CHAIRMAN:** Christian Brodie

SELEP chairman Christian Brodie said: "The time is right, given Brexit and the government's emerging industrial strategy, to properly recognise the important role of LEPs and the future opportunity created by

our inclusive public-private partnerships in supporting businesses and communities in our areas.

"Promoting business growth, improving skills, strengthening our key trade links to the rest of the UK and keeping international markets open for business are at the heart of what SELEP is focused on achieving.

"To do this it is important that SELEP and all of our partners in our robust federal model continue to present a strong aggregate voice to government.

"The review coincides with us updating our strategic economic plan to make sure it presents the strongest possible case for our share of future government funding."

SELEP has recently been given the green light by government for the investment of a further £102.6m in employment and skills, new transport and infrastructure to support business growth, which will unlock £141m of private investment, and will create or safeguard 33,000 jobs and allow the development of 6,000 new homes.



**SHOW:** Event finishes at 10pm tonight

## 'Kinky' adults festival sets up in woodland

AN 'adult' festival for "enlightened, kinky partygoers" is being staged in Tunbridge Wells this weekend

The raunchy woodland festival, called Flamefest, is expected to attract more than 350 people after opening its doors on Friday and concluding today (Sunday).

Although organisers say the event is taking place at a "secret location in Kent" it is believed to be sited at Brookes Wood in High Brooms.

As well as live rave music, movie nights and extreme performances including fire breathing and sword swallowing, it also offers "an adult play area and steamy outdoor hot tubs".

However, residents have complained about the nature of the event, which charges £600 for a boutique tent with entry for two people, and the number of coaches that will be bringing partygoers from the capital to the venue. Local councillors have also raised objections to the event and its nature.

Event organisers, which describe the festival as being "for kinky, quirky, creative hedonists" are understood to have allayed fears, though, by insisting no sex would be visible to the public and all noise would be strictly controlled.

Tickets for the event were only available in advance.

## Don't feed the ducks bread warns council

ENVIRONMENTAL chiefs in Dover are handing out free duck food throughout August amid fears that feeding them bread can damage both the birds and the wider ecosystem.

The district council is supplying park-goers with the food in Kearsney Abbey, and is reminding people of alternatives that can be fed to the water fowl including pears, seeds, sweetcorn, seedless grapes cut in half, chopped lettuce and duck pellets.

Feeding bread to ducks, says the authority, can be harmful because it fills them up but doesn't give them the right nutrients, and a high calorie, low-nutrient diet can cause a condition called 'angel wing', making the birds unable to fly.

In addition, rotting bread can attract vermin or grow mould which can cause a fatal lung condition called aspergillosis. Bosses also point out it can lead to the clogging of the waterways and lead to pollution that can kill fish and other pond life and disrupt the ecosystem.

## Driver admits 70mph in 30 zone in court

A THANET motorist who hit speeds of 70mph in a 30mph zone, and drove on the wrong side of the road as he looked to evade police in Margate, has pleaded guilty to dangerous driving.

Joseph Hernandez, 21, of no fixed address, sped away from officers who had been following his vehicle in the Millmead Road area, shortly after 8am on Sunday.

He then reached speeds of 70mph in a residential area in an attempt to lose the patrol car, while also driving on the wrong side of the road and through a red light.

A stinger was used to stop Hernandez's vehicle and he was arrested soon after in Manston Road.

He appeared before Medway magistrates the following day and pleaded guilty to dangerous driving, driving while disqualified and driving without insurance.

He also admitted taking fuel and not paying in Ramsgate. The case was adjourned for sentencing to be held at Canterbury Crown Court at a later date.

## Crook jailed after stealing cash cards

A CROOK who stole bank cards from a man and woman in Sittingbourne before using them to pay for items has been sentenced to four years imprisonment.

Billy Austin, of Cavell Way, robbed the victims in May and July 2017 before going on to use their bank cards for payments. He also burgled a small business in the town during the same time period.

The 24-year-old pleaded guilty to two counts of robbery, one count of burglary and four counts of fraud and was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court.

On one occasion he watched his victim enter his PIN in a shop and then threatened him with a knife to hand it over.

Detective sergeant Mike Champion, from Kent Police, said: "Billy Austin has shown himself to be incapable of living in society without posing a threat to innocent members of the public.

"The sentence is proportionate and I hope the victims can take comfort from the fact he has been brought to justice."



# Firm vows not to challenge ruling over 322m high mast

By Luke May

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A COMMUNICATIONS firm which hoped to build a 322metre mast in the Dover countryside has confirmed it will not appeal an earlier rejection.

Vigilant, the company behind the Richborough Mast proposal, had suggested building the structure to improve connections between finance firms in the UK and Europe.

If built, the mast would have stood 12metres taller than the tip of The Shard skyscraper in London.

But in January, Dover planning councillors threw out the proposals, claiming it would be "materially harmful" to heritage sites including the Roman-Saxon era Richborough Fort, as well as the Grade I listed St Peter's Church in Sandwich and the Church of Saint Mary in Minster.

In its rejection, the council also wrote the mast would "significantly adversely affect and be harmful to the landscape character" of the surrounding area.

A separate application for a slightly smaller mast had been made another company, New Line Networks, which was unanimously rejected by councillors at the same meeting.

Seven months on from the decision, director of global networks at Vigilant, Eric Belle-



**BIGGER:** If it had been built, the mast would have towered higher than The Shard

rive, said: "We have listened to and carefully considered the feedback of local community members and their elected councillors.

"Out of respect for that feedback, we have chosen not to appeal Dover District Council's decision. We continue to explore alternative, less intrusive ways to enhance the communications infrastructure in the area to meet the technical requirements of the financial sector, as well as provide benefits to the local community.

"We do not have any detailed plans at

present, but will share promptly any future proposals with the community."

The firm had promised a "community fund" worth at least £2 million which would donate to local charitable organisations in the area, during the operation lifetime of the mast and had already donated funds for IT equipment to a number of local schools.

A spokesperson from Dover District Council said it "would not be appropriate" to comment on the decision, describing it as a "matter for the applicant".

## Death smash closes M2 for eight hours

A 27-year-old man from Orpington has died in a horror smash on the M2.

Officers are appealing for witnesses to the crash involving a silver coloured BMW 530, which occurred at 11.05pm on Monday evening on the London-bound carriageway of the motorway between junctions six and five near Faversham. The road was closed until 7am on Tuesday.

The victim is believed to be Raihard Radu.

## Diners evacuated as blaze sparks drama

FIREFIGHTERS tackled a blaze above a popular restaurant in Ashford town centre on Wednesday afternoon.

A cordon was put up around the Paper Duck restaurant in North Street as crews tackled the fire from around 12.30pm.

There were no reports of any injuries.

## Steam engine appeal

POLICE have renewed an appeal for help in tracking down a replica £25,000 steam engine stolen from a driveway in Chatham.

It was stolen from Lords Wood Lane on August 7 after crooks pinched the "distinctive" blue and red machine often seen at events.

Anyone who has information should call the appeals line on 01634 792209.

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# Yet more homes approved as garden city picks up the pace

PLANS for a village centre including a local supermarket and 250 homes have been approved for Ebbsfleet Garden City.

Bosses gave the green light to schemes across the city on Wednesday night, including a new range of shared ownership properties, which they say will help give people a foot up on to the property ladder.

Ebbsfleet Development Corporation's planning committee approved plans by Newcrest for a local neighbourhood centre in Castle Hill, providing new retail space and 56 homes.

They include a new supermarket and smaller units for non-food retail, small businesses, a café and a take-away uses in the first new village centre to provide services to local residents.



A new primary school, Cherry Orchard, opens in the area next month and eventually there will be 6,250 homes in three villages in Eastern Quarry.

Paul Spooner, interim chief

executive of Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, said: "Ebbsfleet Garden City provides a wide range of housing, from affordable with shared ownership, to quality family homes, all on London's doorstep."

# Tributes for Alex, 15, who died on school trip to Cuba

FAMILY and friends have this week paid tribute to a 15-year-old schoolboy from Whitstable who died while on a school trip to Cuba.

Popular Alex Holliday, who attended the Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School in Faversham, and previously attended Barton Court in Canterbury, died in his sleep during the trip to Havana following a "medical incident from which he did not recover".

His grieving parents said their son was always "full of life, funny and touched so many people's lives" and that he adored his sister Ellie.

A keen young athlete, he was a club runner with the Invicta East Kent Athletics Club.

A spokesman this week described the teenager as "a talented and enthusiast

runner...who excelled at middle distance events".

He was also a stalwart of Whitstable's popular Parkrun events close to his home on the Tankerton Slopes, where he recently completed the volunteering requirements of his Duke of Edinburgh award in addition to regularly running the 5k route.

They added: "Alex's death also robs us and his family and friends of an exceptionally polite and helpful young man who had a very exciting future ahead of him. As a club we are devastated and offer our sincerest and heartfelt condolences to his family and friends."

The trip to Cuba saw almost 30 students learn about marine ecology.

## Car park sexual assault

A WOMAN was sexually assaulted on the roof car park of Maidstone's The Mall on Monday as she was touched inappropriately as she waited to pay for her parking.

The man is described as Asian, 50 to 60 years, medium build with a beard and wearing a turban and a beige coat.

## Memorial's wide appeal

THE Battle of Britain Memorial at Capel-le-Ferne says visitors from almost 50 different countries have signed its guest book since January of this year.

People from as far afield as Israel, Hong Kong, Australia, Puerto Rico, Nepal and Saudia Arabia left messages.

## £3m road scheme blast

MAIDSTONE Greens are calling for a proper consultation on the £3m scheme to increase Sutton Road to six lanes around Willington Street.

They branded the scheme a "complete waste of money" and want instead a bus lane and better bus services for Sutton Road.

## Jail for bottle attack

RUARDHI Snook, 36, of St George's Terrace, Herne Bay, has been jailed for six-and-a-half years at Canterbury Crown Court for attacking a 37-year-old with a bottle following a night out in Whitstable.

The attack took place in an alleyway off Middle Wall in June 2015.

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Mick Webb



Peter Dent





## F h t b a

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**B**UILDERS are adding the finishing touches to Ashford College's new £26 million campus ahead of its opening next month.

The state-of-the-art building on Elwick Road, just 429 footsteps from Ashford International train station, will enrol more than a thousand students onto a range of courses including beauty therapy, catering and hospitality, engineering, fashion and photography to name but a few.

Part of the Hadlow Group, business is at the heart of its ideology and there is a commercial element to many of the courses on offer.

For example, anyone walking along the street can pop in and book an appointment at its hair and beauty salon or at its fine dining restaurant where students will be providing services to the public while they learn the trade.

Other facilities include an "old school" dark room for photography, a music technology studio and IT suites.

Bosses have ensured the new campus will be as energy-efficient as possible, with solar panels on the roof providing much of the power needed throughout the building.



**DEVELOPMENT:** Ashford College is almost ready

If not enough is generated, power can still be brought in from the grid, or if it produces more energy than is required, that can theoretically be sold back to the grid, though chiefs say the amount received would be minimal.

The core of the building has now been built, with the exterior spruced up using a type of cladding that boss-

es insist has passed all safety checks and pearlescent paint.

Inside, equipment is still arriving on site over the coming weeks with each studio, classroom and student breakout area still needing to be fully furnished ahead of the grand opening, for which a date has not been officially announced.

Contracts were exchanged last

year to transform the site of the college's Jemmett Road campus into more than 150 new homes.

The new campus is one of Ashford Borough Council's 'Big 8' projects for economic growth in the area. Others include the Commercial Quarter mixed-use development directly opposite the site, the Elwick Place cinema and junction 10a on the M20.

## Jail for violent knife teenager

A TEENAGER who stabbed two men in Tunbridge Wells in December has been jailed for five and a half years.

Police described Deon Awodeyi, 18, of Hetton Lodge, as "a danger to others" after he was sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court. He had attacked the victims with a knife in Dudley Road in December after a long-running dispute.

The men, one aged in his 20s and the other aged in his late teens, suffered serious injuries.

He pleaded guilty to two counts of grievous bodily harm and carrying a knife.

## Rescue after ball in river

LIFEBOAT crews were called out to rescue someone who had swam into the Thames on Monday at Gravesend to get their football.

RNLI crews plucked them out and warned people not to take the risk.

A spokesman said: "Is a football really worth risking your life for?"

The uninjured swimmer was said to have been "very tired" after being caught up in the river's fast flowing tides.

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# Did A-level reform deliver result?

Our top universities say demand for places remained strong this year, despite a small drop in the number of applications nationwide, as the first verdicts were delivered on new look exam courses

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

UNIVERSITY places in Kent are still in high demand despite numbers appearing to fall in other areas across the country.

As teenagers around the county this week collected their A-level results and started plotting their next steps, early figures nationwide showed that fewer students have been accepted on to degree courses, with immediate numbers down two per cent compared with the same point last year.

The fall means that many options are still available for students hoping to start degree courses this autumn with the majority of universities, including many top Russell Group institutions, entering clearing in a bid to recruit good candidates.

There have been reports that a number of universities are lowering their entry requirements to attract students.

Clearing is the annual process that matches students without places, for example those that did not meet their required grades, with available courses, and more information can be found in our guide on pages 24 and 25 of this week's paper.

The University of Kent, however, appeared to buck that trend, with demand remaining strong, particularly in towns and cities bordering the county.

Head of recruitment and admissions Steven Holdcroft, said: "The University of Kent has had a strong student recruitment round this year with fewer places available in clearing than in 2016.

"Demand for places at Kent from students living in London and the south east region appears to have remained strong throughout the admissions cycle, despite the downward demographic shift in the 18-year-old cohort.

"Despite economic and political uncertainties, students are continuing to see the value and benefit of studying at a top-ranked university such as Kent."

Meanwhile, Professor Martin Snowden, pro-vice-chancellor for the University of Greenwich's faculty of engineering and science, based at the Medway campus, said the faculty was enjoying a 'buoyant' clearing period.

"Our offers of places are currently up on this time last year," he said.

"We've seen lots of activity and I've also been impressed by the quality of applicants who are wanting to come and study with us at Medway.

"We are seeing a particular surge in applications in life and sports science degree programmes. Another subject that is proving popular is our brand new degree in chemical engineering.

"Our degrees are very hands-on and career-focused, and so one of our key messages during clearing is that we help our students to compete for the very best science, engineering

kentnews.co.uk kent-life.co.uk



**DELIGHT:** Happy teens collect their results at Rochester Grammar School this week. Across the county, thousands received their scores.

and pharmacy graduate level jobs."

This year's results proved particularly intriguing for some analysts, as it was the first under a controversial series of A-level reforms.

The government introduced major changes to the qualifications in 2015 - when this current crop of pupils would have been moving to their sixth forms and colleges - with a move away from coursework and modular exams throughout the course as well as the decoupling of AS-levels, making them more challenging for students.

While the A\*-A pass-rate has risen, there was a drop in top results among the first 13 subjects to be overhauled in England, statistics from the Joint Council of Qualifications (JCQ) show.

When comparing 18-year-olds' results for these subjects, the proportion of A\* grades for these courses is down 0.5 percentage points to 7.2 per cent from last year, A\*-A grades have dropped 0.7 percentage points to 24.3 per cent and A\*-E results have fallen 0.5 percentage points to 98.1 per cent.

The 13 reformed subjects are art and design, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, English language, English literature, history, physics, psychology and sociology.

Critics of the reforms have been vocal ever since the results were an-



nounced on Thursday, and while former Gravesend head teacher Peter Read accepted there may be some positives to the changes, he too became the scrapping of coursework.

He told KoS: "What we seem to be returning to, under Michael Gove's reforms, is moving back to end-of-course exams, which I think puts a lot more emphasis on memory.

"The AS levels which are being phased out, demand you have exams in three consecutive years and education is about far more than exams.

"Why can't we be like the rest of Europe and phase down 16-plus exams, because we have the most examined children in western Europe and these are not necessarily skills that people needs?

"Coursework, I think, is really relevant, and one of the interesting things is girls tend to do better in coursework than boys, which is why they have historically done better at A-level, but now boys seem to be coming to the fore under these reforms."

East

**DEMAND:** The University of Kent says it has seen fewer places up for grabs in clearing this year compared to last year as competition for places continues to increase.

A survey of around 170 heads in England conducted by the Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL) found that around two-thirds (65 per cent) have cut the number of AS courses they offer in the wake of the government's reforms, while 86 per cent said they expect to remove AS courses in the future.

Indeed, the association's general secretary, Geoff Barton, said the changes have "have sounded the death knell for AS-levels".

However, Alex Scharaschkin, director of research at AQA, an education charity providing support to students, will not have been disadvantaged by taking the new-style exams.

"We've been clear and very careful to make sure that the results are fair, so there has been no advantage or disadvantage from something you

cannot control, the year you were born," he said.

"In terms of your A-level results they will be fair and they will be the right results."

Mr Read, who runs the kentadvice.co.uk consultancy website, declined to speculate on whether the reforms had an impact on the nationwide fall, but said there would be a number of factors involved, including the rise in tuition fees, for which graduates are now paying a staggering 6.1 per cent in interest - which he described as "the exploitation of young people".

Universities minister and Orpington MP Jo Johnson defended the policy, however, insisting the current system is "fair and equitable".

Canterbury Christ Church University did not respond for comment at the time of going to press.

Week ending August 20, 2017 11



# Tributes for 'unfailingly kind' former leader after death at 75

John Cubitt stepped down as leader of Gravesham Borough Council in March due to illness. This week the sad news was confirmed of his passing. It has led to tributes from across the political divide to a popular Conservative figure

**Luke May**

luke.may@archant.co.uk

**T**RIBUTES have been paid this week to the "inspirational" former leader of Gravesham Borough Council, John Cubitt, after his death was announced earlier this week, *writes Luke May*.

The popular Conservative councillor stepped down from the post in March as he battled a long-standing illness.

He passed away last Friday. He was 75.

Cllr Cubitt had represented Meopham North since 2007 and became leader of the council in 2015 when the Tories regained control from Labour.

As his health started to take its toll, he was replaced by David Turner.

Cllr Turner said: "I knew John for many years, first through our mutual love of rugby football. He was a life-long member of Gravesend RFC, joining aged 16 and playing in the 1st XV for 35 years.

"I was a referee and recall he was more gentle with me than he was with the opposition, he went on to be-

come an honorary life member and served as treasurer, then from 2014, its chairman.

"Throughout his period as leader I was his deputy and when he was forced to step down because of his growing frailty I took over the leadership role. He had a vision for Gravesham; to develop its commercial base and make it a safe place to live and work. I will strive to take that forward - it will be a part of John's legacy.

"But above all I will remember him as a large man in all respects; a powerful rugby player and a significant servant of the community, with tenacity when seeking to deliver quality but always sensitive to the feelings of those he worked with. Always forgiving and always displaying a warm and endearing personality."

Cllr Cubitt's "vision" saw him join the Lower Thames Crossing Association, a campaign group born in opposition against the bored tunnel set for east of Gravesend by 2026.

Through the fight against what was known as Option C, Cllr Cubitt met lead campaigner Bob Lane.

"Everyone would listen to what John would have to say," Mr Lane said this week. "Losing him is a blow to the campaign and we will miss him



**MISSED:** John Cubitt had served as Meopham North councillor for the last 10 years.

very much."

Together with fellow campaigners including county councillor Bryan Sweetland, Cllr Cubitt and Mr Lane took their fight to Westminster during a consultation on the project last year.

Cllr Sweetland, chairman of Gravesham Conservatives said: "It was a privilege to have known and worked alongside John for the last 10 years and I have many fond memories of him both as a councillor and fellow Rotarian.

"He was very knowledgeable and a good leader of the council but more importantly, he was a good person and truly good people are very rare. Whenever John spoke, everyone listened. He will be a great loss to our town. We will all miss him and our thoughts are with his wife Moira and the family."

Added Mr Lane: "He was always so vocal and helpful in the campaign, if you look at Essex, over there the campaigners have only just started working with councillors, here the council has always made its opinion known over the past eight years, John was a big part of that, along with John Burden when it was a Labour council beforehand."

Cllr Burden, opposition leader, paid his own tribute. He said: "We might have had our political differences, but we were very friendly and always put the needs of the borough first.

"He was a great councillor for his ward. We both wanted what was best for Gravesham and for that reason we combined well, it's all you can ask for from a great leader."

Born in 1942, he obtained a degree

East

in mathematics before becoming a qualified electrical and electronic engineer, subsequently working as both an independent financial advisor, and a financial adviser for a variety of organisations, as well as a further education lecturer and vice principal of a college of technology. He was a fellow of the RSA (Royal Society of Arts) and a member of the Institute of Directors.

Jordan Meade was appointed into the former council leader's cabinet after the 2015 local election, despite being aged just 19 at the time.

The member for tourism and youth described his former leader as a "friend and mentor" adding: "John was a champion for young people in Gravesham and it was he who inspired me and others to get involved in local government.

"He truly loved the local party and working for the public and his commitment to the people of Gravesham was second to none.

"John will be hugely missed by many, not only for his commitment to public life and the support and mentorship that he offered to young people like me, but for his immeasurable friendship and for his sheer willingness to give young people a chance.

"I am privileged to have had the chance to work with John, he was an inspirational leader, a real gentleman and above all, a virtuous friend."

Outside of politics, the "unfailingly kind" father, brother and husband was a founding member of Gravesend and Meopham Rotary Club, serving as its president for two years.

He was also a trustee of the Henry Pinnocks Charity, a family trustee of

the Elizabeth Huggins Cottages Charity, a governor of two primary schools, had been a member of Kent Police Authority and Groundwork Kent & Medway, and also served as a governor and director of Canterbury Christ Church University.

Chief executive of Gravesham Borough Council, David Hughes, added: "John was an exemplary leader to work with. He had a very clear vision of what the administration he led was seeking to achieve and communicated that effectively to me and senior colleagues so that our efforts were correctly focused. John worked very hard to represent, protect and promote Gravesham's interests in a variety of forums.

"On a personal level, he was unfailingly kind and supportive to those who work for the borough council at all levels and he was undoubtedly held not only in esteem but genuine affection. He will be sorely missed."

Amongst his busy schedule of committees and charity work, Cllr Cubitt was also on the board for the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation overseeing the development of 15,000 homes at the garden city.

Interim chief executive Paul Spooner said: "John was very passionate about Ebbsfleet Garden City, always coming up with ideas from his years of experience in public life as to how we could drive the development forward.

"Not only was he a pleasure to have on our board but he was a genuinely nice man who will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with his family."

Funeral arrangements will be announced in due course.

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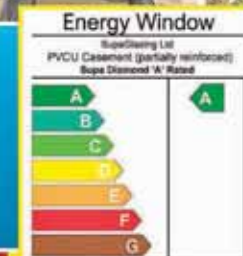
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# They have cost millions, but do cop cameras deliver results?

A campaign group says police forces - including Kent - are refusing to reveal if the use of body-worn cameras by frontline officers are making our streets safer. With 2,000 in use in our county should there be greater transparency?

**By Chris Murphy**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

**K**ENT Police has been criticised by a civil liberties and privacy campaign group after failing to respond to requests about the number of convictions secured after spending millions of pounds on body-worn cameras.

However, it is far from alone in being coy over the extent to which the cameras have been used to bring law-breakers to justice, with no constabulary - or the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) able to provide data on their use in criminal proceedings.

The campaign group Big Brother Watch (BBW) filed Freedom of Information requests with police across the country in a bid to ascertain how many cameras were being used and how successful they were proving.

Kent Police, however, claimed they did not receive any such request and insists it has nothing to hide.

Renate Samson, chief executive of BBW, told KoS: "We have a confirmation email from them acknowledging receipt of the request which was sent to us on August 2, last year. We didn't hear anything further from them."

"It seems Kent had some funding for these devices a few years ago, but we don't know what they have done since, or even if they have any at all."

"Our response to that is that we are very nervous and worried. We don't have any beef with body-worn cameras."

"But if the police are going to constantly tell us that these cameras are a tool of transparency, be transparent about what you use them for, when you use them, how you use them and how the footage is being used to actually sign, seal and deliver convictions."

"Not one police force and nor the Crown Prosecution Service can tell us that."

However, the police were slightly more forthcoming when we contacted them.

A spokesman told us: "Kent Police has more than 2,000 body worn video cameras that are currently used by frontline officers. In 2015 the office of the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner approved £1.8 million for the roll out of body worn video cameras."

"Our devices have enhanced capabilities such as GPS tagging, infrared, viewing screens, additional software, warranty and an anti-tampering feature which prevents officers from deleting footage manually."

"The cameras have a number of benefits, which includes improving evidence gathering and an increase in guilty pleas at court from offenders. This provides a better service to many victims of crime, as it can reduce the need for them to give evidence at court. It also helps reduce malicious complaints against officers, which saves a significant amount of money in terms of the time that would have been spent

## WHAT THE REPORT DID REVEAL:

THE report - Smile: You're on Body Worn Camera Part II - was conducted by Big Brother Watch.

### Key findings included:

■ Neither the police nor CPS could say how many early guilty pleas or convictions have been obtained thanks to footage taken from body worn cameras.

■ Police forces have approved use of cameras based on the findings of trials which questioned the benefit, ease of use and value of the technology. One force has spent

£209,610 on 411 cameras which during the trial had been found to not record, recorded "at the wrong angle" and are "difficult to wear".

■ The most widely used device doesn't feature a front-facing screen to make it clear to a citizen that they are personally being filmed.

As a result, Big Brother Watch has called for the following recommendations:

1. Data must be collated and published to show how often body worn camera

footage is used as evidence during court proceedings and in obtaining early guilty pleas.

2. Forces must publish regular transparency reports to show how body worn cameras are being used in day to day policing.

3. Forces should ensure that all body worn cameras deployed feature a visual aid and screen showing clearly when the citizen is being filmed. Protection of data when at rest or in transit must be standard.





**EQUIPMENT:** Above left, a police body-worn camera similar to that used by police in Kent and many other forces around the country. But there remains little evidence to suggest the information they gather has resulted in any criminal prosecution - although police here insist they are part of an arsenal of weapons used by officers in keeping our streets safe.

investigating these complaints.

"Kent Police complies with the Home Office's safeguarding body worn video data recommendations. Officers are proactive in informing people when they are being recorded and this includes audio. The cameras are only used in an overt way and are bright orange to make them visible to the public. All footage is automatically

deleted after 31 days unless there is an evidential need to retain it.

"It is not possible to say for sure how many convictions are directly related body worn video as footage is just one aspect of the total evidence used in prosecutions."

But BBW says there remain concerns.

Its chief executive added: "Using technology in

policing is an inevitability and we don't oppose it, but be straightforward with us about how it is being used so the public can see its value and whether it reassures and protects them.

"The Metropolitan Police has just announced they are going to fit these cameras to 1,000 armed officers to improve accountability and transparency [see box off], so we wonder if we

would get the same response as we did for this report if we did it again in the future?

"The report reveals that 71 per cent of UK police forces have spent £22.7m on 47,922 body worn cameras, but are unable to show how many guilty pleas or convictions have been obtained based on footage from the technology.

**Continued on page 16**



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"Body worn cameras have been billed by both the police and the CPS as critical technology for reducing violence against officers, improving transparency in police/public relations, assisting in obtaining guilty pleas they and as an essential tool in speeding up justice when footage is used as evidence in court.

"The police repeatedly reassures the public that body worn cameras will enhance transparency, create better relations, and improve prosecution rates, but despite 71 per cent of forces rolling out nearly 48,000 cameras these benefits are yet to be conclusively proven.

"It says little for the approach to transparency that neither the police nor the Crown Prosecution Service could tell us how often footage from the cameras has been used in court proceedings.

"Police trials of the technology have proven inconclusive and problems have been reported with the cameras themselves.

"If the future of policing is to arm all officers with wearable surveillance, the value of the technology must be proven and not just assumed. It is not enough to tell the public they are essential policing tools if the benefits cannot be shown."

Certainly there is a strong argument to suggest the mere presence of the cameras acts as a deterrent in themselves, and protects officers from fraudulent claims brought about by the police claiming ill-treatment at the hands of officers.

Kent first trialled the technology in 2014 when it used around 400 devices to test their effectiveness when worn by frontline staff in Maidstone, Medway and Thanet. It did not go without a hitch, however, after a fault was apparently discovered in downloading the footage. However, it was swiftly rectified and the six month trial scheme declared a success.

It led to the then police and crime commissioner, Ann Barnes, giving the green light to invest £1.6m in the cameras.



**DEFEND:** Kent Police first trialled the cameras back in 2014 and have continued with their use ever since.

The small devices are fitted to an officer's chest or shoulder and can record video and audio of every interaction.

That could be from someone asking for directions to people being arrested or spoken to about a crime.

Andy Marsh, National Police Chiefs' Council lead for body-worn video, said the technology is relatively new in policing.

He added: "We are working with the College of Policing to evaluate its effectiveness and benefits to forces and the public.

## LONDON EXTENDS USE OF CAMERAS

FIREARMS officers working in London will be given head-mounted cameras to boost transparency, more than three years after the plans were first mooted.

The Metropolitan Police said officers working for armed response units will have the devices attached to baseball caps and ballistic helmets.

Cameras have already been given to 17,500 officers in the country's largest police force, with the latest tranche seeing 1,000 members of 'firearms command' getting the devices.

The plans were first suggested by previous Met commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe in 2014 in the wake of the death of

29-year-old Mark Duggan.

Sir Bernard said giving firearms officers cameras would result in speedier justice for victims and help the force "be more accountable" in the wake of the death which sparked riots in 2011.

Commander Matt Twist, in charge of the firearms command, said: "Officers who carry an overt firearm as part of their role very much welcome the use of body worn video.

"It provides a documented and accurate account of the threats officers face and the split second decisions they make.

"The cameras also offer greater transparency for

those in front of the camera as well as those behind it."

Only those officers who carry a firearm overtly will be given a camera, while other units including mounted branch, parliamentary and diplomatic protection and specialist crime units to be given the devices by October.

London mayor Sadiq Khan said the technology "will make a real difference to those carrying firearms"

He said: "As we complete the London-wide rollout, the cameras will also provide our officers with confidence in the transparency of their actions, as they continue their great work on the front line fighting crime and keeping our city safe."

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**FINALE:** Saturday night finished in style with dramatic fireworks, as crowds flocked to the site near Tunbridge Wells last weekend for three days of music and outdoor living

# LeeFest serves up a treat on its evolution path

**REVIEW** by Emily King  
Emily.King@archant.co.uk

**O**F all Kent's music festivals over the years, LeeFest certainly has a story which captures the imagination.

It was just 11 years ago when Lee Denny decided to make use of having his parents' house to himself and staged an impromptu festival in their back garden.

Among the few dozen of his friends who turned up to the Beckenham home, sufficient fun and enthusiasm was generated to see it return the year after.

Two years later some 600 people were turning up to a local recreation ground. Ambition has never been found wanting.

Coupled with becoming the star of a high profile TV advertising campaign for Google, the festival found its new home near Tunbridge Wells last year for its 10th anniversary bash, and returned there again last weekend for another almighty summer knees up.

And, once again, it proved that small can so often be beautiful.

With a 5,000 capacity, the three-day event sprawled across John Darlings Farm near Edenbridge and was awash with colour and barnstorming sets by its headline

acts.

Once again assuming its Neverland theme, festival-goers were invited to assign themselves into a particular group - be it Lost Boys, pirates or mermaids. An opportunity to dress up in glitter, leotards and feathers for many, of course, and a great chance to inject a sense of escape on proceedings. There were tree houses, pirate ships and a mermaid lagoon too in which to frolic. Which is, after all, what festivals should be all about - a short-lived community which lives long in the memory and becomes part of everyone's summer calendar.

The musical smorgasbord served up included some tasty treats that left the audience hungry for more.

Friday night headliner was Jake Bugg, a man whose music seems designed for outdoor arenas. His set list was a fine selection of his three top 10 albums and set the tone nicely for the rest of the weekend.

Surprise act Slaves - announced just a few days before the festival began - were one of the stand-outs on the Saturday. The Tunbridge Wells duo's brand of punk has seen them become not only chart hits - netting two top 10 albums with their first two offerings - but festival favourites.

And the proximity of home to the festival site was beneficial to them too - telling the

crowd they were "thankful" to be back in Kent as it meant they could start the day with a fry-up in familiar surroundings.

Saturday night headliner was Radio 1's Annie Mac - fresh from performing her DJ set in Ibiza. And it came through during her set when, in true party fashion, she brought some classic and new house remixes to the stage, and had everyone raving to end the day.

The festival itself was not without some hitches - many complained about long queues getting into campsites and there were the expected gripes on social media about the state of the toilets. But that is surely de rigueur for all festivals the world over. It is, after all, the toilet issue which acts as a festival control valve; if the loos were nice at these sorts of events then surely no-one could resist a day outside listening to live music enjoying a drink and something to eat.

There were issues with the shuttle bus, however, which saw the £10 service getting punters from Tonbridge and Edenbridge stations see too few seats and too infrequent a service. The result was many festival goers having to fork out £50 for a taxi instead.

But let's not dwell on that. LeeFest was another enjoyable weekend with a strong line-up. Here's to next year's event.



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Week ending August 20, 2017 **19**

# Overcoming tragedy and depression, meet inspirational Kobe

Refusing to let things get on top of her, the 25-year-old from Dartford is vying to be Miss Great Britain later this year

By Chris Murphy  
editorial@archant.co.uk

A 25-year-old who battled anxiety, depression and weight problems has shed seven stone and is now the county's contender to be crowned Miss Great Britain.

Kobe Emelonye, a life coach from Dartford, was crowned Miss Kent earlier this year and will now take part in the national final on September 15 in Leicester.

But despite her remarkable success, her life has been far from easy. She lost her father when she was just nine, and the depression that sparked saw her weight balloon. By the time she was 21 she was almost 20 stone.

Now, however, the young mum has turned her life around in remarkable style - shedding the weight, easing

her mental trauma and now being crowned Miss Kent.

She told KoS: "I had to ditch bad dietary habits like having take outs every night.

"I had to begin going to the gym and eating healthily.

"I had a great childhood and a really close family but we were hit hard when my dad passed away when I was nine.

"We lost our house as my mum struggled to uphold mortgage payments on her own.

"Although she was a single parent she made sure we had everything we need and encouraged us to get an education and stay on the right path - rather than become a statistic. There wasn't a thing we didn't do as a family whether it was going away to Leeds or Paris to horse riding.

"As I was only nine and didn't understand death properly, I found I didn't have an escape for how I was

feeling and turned to food for comfort.

"My dad was a slightly bigger man and I knew his death was due to high blood pressure and heart complications so that was a situation that I wanted to avoid myself, but comfort eating at that time made me feel better."

It soon became apparent that things were not good.

She said: "It wasn't until the age of 13 I noticeably started gaining weight. At this time I didn't know that I was using food as my way of dealing with the numbness of losing a parent. I remember that I was upset that my dad did not get to see my year five play like he did with my two older sisters as he passed away a couple months before this happened.

"It wasn't until I was around 14 or 15 that I started getting insecure about my weight because although I was a size 12 at this time, I was much



bigger and taller than my friends. When I was 16 I went through depression and had anxiety leaving my house. One of the reasons why was

because I was not comfortable with how I looked and I didn't want to have to bump into anyone I knew outside of the safety of the school walls.

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**PROGRESS:** Kobe Emelonye tipped the scales at almost 20 stone before she embarked on a remarkable one-year mission to get back into shape and focus her mind on the positives. Now she's been crowned Miss Kent 2017

"As each year went on I ended up weighing my age in stones. When I was 14 I was 14 stone, 15 stone at 15 and by the time I was 17 I was 17 stone.

"I maintained 17 stone until I was roughly 19/20 when I became 18 stone. I was horrified that the scale had reached such a height. I tried to do something about my weight but as

soon as life's challenges hit me again I found comfort in my bed and food."

It was yet more years later that she decided to really tackle her problems.

She told us: "A year later at the age of 21 when I decided to weigh myself again to begin my fitness journey I weighed in at 19 stone 5lbs.

"At this point I was horrified. Heart problems are something I have al-

ways avoided. My dad passed away young at only 41 years old so I did not want to go down that path. I decided I was going to get in shape and not give up this time. I was doing this for two weeks straight but I started feeling sick but did not know why, it wasn't until I went to the hospital a week later that I found out that I was pregnant. I was happy of course, but upset

that I had to wait nine months until I was able to fully engage in exercise.

"I tried to develop good habits during this time but it wasn't long until I started eating away my problems.

"When I gave birth because I had a lot of morning sickness all through my pregnancy I weighed 17 stone 9lbs.

"That was my lowest weight since I was 17 so I was happy. Eight months later I was back at over 19 stone."

She went on: "One day I was laying in bed going through my social media and I just could not stop crying. I was seeing people my age having fun and enjoying their life and here was me, not. I decided that I needed a change and I was not going to procrastinate anymore.

"On April 4, 2016 I started my fitness programme. I researched online the best exercises to do at the gym and what foods to eat. The first week I lost 5lb, second week I gained 2lb but the difference between this time and previous times I have tried and given up, this time I decided that I was not going to be put off by a little weight gain. I kept at it and over a year later I am still going. I am now 12 stone and a size 12 and have never been more fit and healthy in my life. I even had the courage to break away from my shyness and reserved nature to apply for Miss Great Britain and I won the title of Miss Kent."

And her sponsor is Gravesham Community Leisure - the company which operates the gym in which she has worked out so hard - Outline at the Cascades Leisure Centre.

Having beaten her own demons, Ms Emelonye wants to help others and has trained to become a life coach to aid people in dark times see a hap-

pier future for themselves.

She told us: "Having been through certain things I have experienced in the past I want to influence people to believe in themselves and go after their dreams.

"I encourage people to believe that they are limitless and the only person who sets limits for us is ourselves.

"I am now a personal trainer and I help people to get to where they want to be in life by taking small steps towards a bigger goal and not allowing circumstances and situations hinder them for becoming the person they want to be.

"My goal would be that girls as well as guys will have confidence in themselves that they don't look to the media as a way of seeing what it is they think they should look like. I am also hoping that I will make history by being the first black Miss Great Britain. I believe all things are possible and I am living proof."

Jemma Simmonds, the Miss Great Britain event and operations manager said: "Our aim is to find title holders who embody what it is to be a positive young role model and Kobe is exactly that. For any young person to overcome the obstacles Kobe has and come out the other side with such a positive message is truly inspirational.

"It is incredibly uplifting to see such a positive young lady with a great message using her platform to spread her story and hopefully inspire others to be the best they can. Where so many people might just give up and not discover the extent of their full potential Kobe pushed herself to reach her goal and we're incredibly proud to have her as part of the Miss Great Britain family."



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# High drama as our athletics stars enjoy mixed fortunes

The IAAF World Championships came to a close last weekend with gold for our very own Adam Gemili but there was heartache for racewalk star Tom Bosworth

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

**A**DAM Gemili, Dina Asher-Smith and Jack Green all won medals on a dramatic final weekend of athletics at the London Stadium.

The Kent trio won gold, silver and bronze in their respective relays as Great Britain made amends for what many had considered a disappointing home performance at the IAAF World Championships.

Gemili said he banished his Olympic demons by playing a huge role in the men's 4x100m relay triumph - in which the legendary Usain Bolt pulled up injured in his final ever track race - with former world and Olympic champion Michael Johnson hailing the Dartford sprinter's efforts.

Gemili had missed out on a bronze medal in Rio by three-thousandths of a second, and was controversially overlooked for selection in the individual 200m event at the champi-

onships.

But together with CJ Ujah, Danny Talbot and Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake, Gemili obliterated the European 4x100 metres record with a run of 37.47 seconds to take gold 13 years after Britain's last global success in the event at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

"It's been a tough year, there's been a lot of downs," the 23-year-old said on his 2017 season.

"It was the lowest I've ever been in the sport and it's the lowest I've ever felt in myself.

"Rio was disappointing, but it was a different kind of disappointment.

"But to come out the other end, with a fantastic team, as world champions - I'm elated, it's everything you dream of.

"I don't actually believe it's happened. I didn't want to go to sleep in case I woke up and it was all a dream.

"But it's reality and it's something we've been working towards and every athlete in the squad wants to become world champion and be the best in the world and for us four



**BLOW:** Tom Bosworth was disqualified from the 20k racewalk

lucky guys it's actually happened. I feel great."

Speaking on BBC Sport, Johnson said: "An amazing and outstanding performance from that British team.

"They beat everyone fair and square. They delivered on a night when everyone was here - not nec-

essarily to see this.

"Adam Gemili was just ridiculous down the back stretch. He opened up a gap that was always going to be hard for anyone to chase down."

Gemili was joined on the podium by Orpington's Dina Asher-Smith, who featured in the women's sprint relay team alongside Asha Philip,

Desiree Henry and Daryll Neita, winning silver in 42.12s.

Asher-Smith, who finished an agonising fourth over 200m after an injury-hit season, added: "To upgrade from Olympic bronze to world silver with these girls has been absolutely incredible, and to



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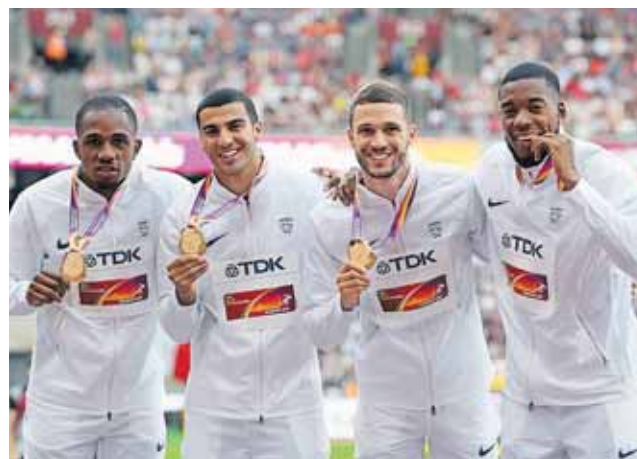
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**JOY:** Dina Asher Smith, centre, won silver as part of the women's sprint relay event last weekend



**GOLDEN:** Adam Gemili, second left, with his gold in the relay



**MEDAL:** Jack Green picked up a bronze for his efforts in the heats but did not feature in the final race of the 4x400m - All pictures PA.

do it at home means so much."

Jack Green, from Maidstone, also took home a bronze medal for his efforts in the heats, despite dropping out of the 4x400m relay final, with Matthew Hudson-Smith replacing him alongside Rabah Yousif, Dwayne Cowan and Martyn Rooney.

But there was heartbreak for Sevenoaks-born star, Tom Bosworth, however, who was disqualified from the 20km racewalk after receiving a third red card for technical infringements.

It meant that Great Britain ended the championships with a total of

six medals, and brought the curtain down on an emotional 10 days where crowds saluted the careers of both Usain Bolt and Sir Mo Farah, who also raced for the final time on the track, before he switches his attention to road races.

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## A-LEVELS: YOUR NEXT STEP

# There is still time to secure the university berth you want

After all the drama of the A-level results being published this week, uni places are still available but those wanting them should act swiftly to not miss out

By Tom Pyman

Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

**L**AST-MINUTE places look likely to still be available at some of the UK's top universities this week, with some actively recruiting students.

Figures released earlier this week show two thirds of Russell Group universities, considered among the best in the UK, were advertising courses on the Ucas clearing website.

In total, the site shows that there were around 4,700 undergraduates courses at these institutions with available places for English students prior to A-level results day on Thursday, when sixth-formers across England, Wales and Northern Ireland received their grades and discovered if they have secured a hoped-for spot on their chosen degree course.

Many universities are aiming to re-



cruit students who perform better than expected in their exams and want to "trade" to a different university through the annual process known as adjustment, or those who simply want to change their course or

university.

Ucas figures show that overall, around 890 applicants found places through adjustment last year, while around 50,000 were placed through the main clearing scheme.

Clearing is the annual process that matches students without places, for example those that did not meet their required grades, with available courses.

Sheffield University is running a campaign this summer which it said aims to "challenging the old perceptions around clearing" and tell high-performing students that if they do better than expected that they can switch to study at the institution.

Liz Hunt, Sheffield's head of admissions said: "The University of Sheffield is looking to recruit high quality students through adjustment and clearing this year and wants to ensure that students who achieve better grades than expected, students who applied late, and students who may have changed their mind about the course they wish to study, are aware that Sheffield is an option for them."

She added that students could register in advance of A-level results day to



express their interest in courses, and those that did so, and achieve the required grades would be given priority consideration if places are available.

Cardiff University has been using Twitter to promote its places, using the social media site to encourage students to plan ahead for results day,

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# A-LEVELS: YOUR NEXT STEP



**PROGRESS:** Even some of the top universities have had places up for grabs since the A-level results came out

view its vacancies and register for update.

According to the Ucas clearing site, Sheffield had available places for students in England on 381 undergraduate courses, and Cardiff 366.

The 16 Russell Group universities showing undergraduate courses with availability for English students were Birmingham, Bristol, Cardiff, Exeter, Glasgow, King's College London, Leeds, Liverpool, Manchester, New-

castle, Queen Mary (University of London), Queen's University Belfast, Sheffield, Southampton, Warwick and York. But be quick if you're interested. These places will have been fought over since Thursday.



**CALM:** There will still be places available - but don't hang around

There is now no cap on student numbers which makes it easier for institutions to recruit more applicants if they want to.

The number of would-be students applying to university this autumn has fallen, according to Ucas statistics. Overall, 649,700 people had applied by June 30, the last deadline for applications, down around four per cent (down 25,190) compared with this point last year.

Those applying after the end of June do so through clearing.

A breakdown shows a four per cent decrease in UK applicants, while the number of EU students planning to study at a UK university or college has fallen by five per cent.

There has been a two per cent rise in international students from countries outside the EU.

The statistics do show that the proportion of 18-year-olds in England applying to universities has reached a new high, with 37.9 per cent planning to study for a degree, up from 37.2 per cent in 2016.



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**SHOWBIZ:** Bronté Barbe has been given the lead role - she was previously a finalist on Andrew Lloyd Webber's BBC One show *Over The Rainbow*

## Carole King musical releases full star-studded theatre cast

The show tells the story of King's rise to stardom, and her relationships...

**O**LIVIER, Tony and Grammy award-winning musical *Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* is coming to Dartford's Orchard Theatre from June 5-9, and Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre from March 27-31, and has recently finalised casting.

Bronté Barbe will be playing Carole King, with Kane Oliver Parry as King's husband and song-writing partner Gerry Goffin, Amy Ellen Richardson as song-writer Cynthia Weil, Matthew Gonsalves as song-writer Barry Mann, Carole Royle as King's mother Genie Klein, and Adam Howden as music publisher and producer Donnie Kirshner.

*Beautiful - The Carole King Musical* tells the true story of King's rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband, to her relationship with fellow

writers and best friends Cynthia and Barry, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history.

Along the way, she wrote the soundtrack to a generation, including one of the best-selling albums of all time, *Tapestry*, and countless classics such as *A Natural Woman*, *Take Good Care of My Baby*, *You've Got A Friend*, *So Far Away*, *It Might As Well Rain Until September*, *Up on the Roof*, and *The Locomotion*. The show will also include the Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann hits *You've Lost that Lovin' Feeling*, *On Broadway*, and *We Gotta Get Out of This Place*.

The musical is based on the early life and career of Carole, and has taken snippets from the book by Douglas McGrath with words and music by Gerry Goffin, Carole King, Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil.

Bronté was a finalist in Andrew Lloyd Webber's BBC One television series *Over The Rainbow* in 2010. Since then she has appeared on stage in *Cool Rider* in the West End and as Princess Fiona in the UK tour of *Shrek - The Musical*.

Kane Oliver Parry has starred in *Carousel* and *Sweeney Todd* at London's Coliseum. West End credits include *Wicked* and *Urinetown*. Kane also appeared in *The Light Princess* at the National Theatre and the International Arena Tour of *We Will Rock You*.

Amy Ellen Richardson's West End theatre credits include *Merrily We Roll Along*, *Crazy For You* and *Les Misérables*. After appearing in the UK Tour of *Singin' in the Rain*, Amy recently reprised the role of Kathy Selden in Tokyo at Theatre Orb.

Currently appearing in the West End production of this stage play, is

Matthew Gonsalves. His other theatre credits include *Dirty Dancing*, and *Dreamboats and Petticoats* both on UK tour. Matthew has also been a singer and vocal arranger for artists including Florence and the Machine, Westlife, Will Young, Leona Lewis, and Barry Manilow.

Carol Royle has previously starred in *Moonlight* in a UK tour, and has been on TV in *Crossroads*, *Casualty*, and *Doctors*.

Adam Howden has also starred on TV in *Doctors*, *The Interns*, *Whitechapel*, and *New Tricks*.

The cast is completed by Merryl Ansah, Lauren Byrne, Matt Campbell, Khalid Daley, Jessica Joslin, Esme Laudat, Emma Lucia, Grant McConvey, Jacob McIntosh, Paige Miller, and Matt Mills.

For Canterbury tickets visit [marlowetheatre.com](http://marlowetheatre.com) or for Dartford tickets visit [orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://orchardtheatre.co.uk).

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**SUE**, attractive, nice curves, young outlook, looking for a soul mate, someone interested in car boot sales, going down the beach, walking, social drinks, WLTm genuine man up to around 70 years. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428187

**CHLOE**, very attractive girl, 32yrs, long hair and lovely teeth, I like to take care of myself. I want a man who will pamper me. In return you won't be disappointed as I am super sexy. Text Only. Box: 4070336

**ATTRACTIVE** lady 61yrs young. Looking for friendship, maybe more with genuine gent. I'm feminine and curvy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428157

**PIPPA**, recently divorced lady, 46yrs, hoping to get back into dating and have some fun with a guy any age. Must be a laugh and willing to have a go at most things. Text Only. Box: 4101590

**CHRISTINE**, 60 something lady, blue eyed blonde. Sincere, solvent and kind. Call me if you are interested in meeting up. Looks unimportant. Must be N/S. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428155

**JULIE**, 68yrs very fit and young looking. Married to an older gent so hoping to meet someone much much younger. Text Me. Text Only: 4193435

**CAROL**, attractive lady 55yrs young, slim, tanned, brunette. If you are genuine and looking to date then call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428153

**GENUINE** caring lady 65yrs, varied interests, solvent, loves life, feminine, WLTm gent of any age for life's pleasures. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428151

**FELICITY**, 'my friends call me posh' I'm not really. Call me to see. I'm 58yrs, curvy, blonde extensions and very good for my age. ACA. Text Only. Box: 4043583

**RACHAEL**, 50yrs, blue-eyed attractive lady, loves films, music and home life. WLTm gent 60-70yrs. ACA or text. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428149

**JANET**, late 40's divorcee, own home and car looking to spice up my life with some fun. Discreet men only please, I'm not ready for a full on relationship, casual chats. Text Only. Box: 4189331

**TAMARA**, 44yrs, beautiful Indian lady seeks a Muslim gent 40+. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428147

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+. Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673

If you are interested in meeting an attractive black lady then please call me. I'm Nikki, 57yrs, attractive, interested and kind. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428145

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chat any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427883

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205

**GEMMA**, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427881

**KAREN**, late 50's seeking discreet gent any age/area for daytime meetings. Text Only. Box: 4194757

**SLIM** attractive lady, 59yrs, feminine, kind, loves life. Call me or text me your number and let's meet up. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428143

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399

**CAROL**, 60 something lady with a wicked sense of humour, please call or text for more info. I promise to reply to all callers. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428141

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**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375

**ATTRACTIVE** widow, attractive, blonde, GSOH, solvent with good figure. All that's missing is a nice man 60+. Call me if you are interested. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428139

**TAMIKKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. P.s call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365

**CATHY**, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted and hoping you will call me. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427853

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427883

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205

**GEMMA**, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427881

**CARMEL**, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash his wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 426851

**ATTRACTIVE** lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. P.s call or text. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427879

**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated 'some call me posh' married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 427533

**STUNNINGLY** attractive black lady, 50s, with blissful imagination, you have to call to hear what's on offer, you won't be sorry!! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427877

**CULTURED** lady with wicked sense of humour, late 60s seeking humorous man for purposeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427875

**RACHAEL**, 42yrs, naughty girl who needs lots of pleasure. Call me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427871

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, 51yrs, loves the countryside, walking, fun times. WLTm a genuine man for romance, relationship. Call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427873

**SONIA**, mature lady, pretty and feminine with fair hair. Loves to socialise, walking, car boot sales and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427647

**PAMELA** early 70s with softly rounded body! If you are a tender male with passion then call or text me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427635

**MICHELLE**, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427649

**JASMINE**, petite Black lady 51yrs, varied interests. Seeking white man for relationship. Looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427657

**RETIRED**, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf. WLTm a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853

**MALE** divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717

**HARRY** 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015

**SINGLE** dad of two, WLTm a single mum, for a proper relationship. Please get in contact I look forward to hearing from you. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427999

**WELL** off man, wanting a young lady for spoiling. I am a sugar daddy looking for a sugar baby. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427441

**JAMES**, 43, genuine, witty, positive, kind and caring, loves travel, socialising, eating out and lots and lots of laughs with the right person, looking for genuine, friendly lady. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 428019

**MALE** 60, 6ft, blue eyes, broad shoulders, size 11 shoes, a real handfull! Seeks a fit mature busty woman for fun times. Text only replies. Mailbox: 6001755

**THANET** male, retired, 5ft5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557

**TALL**, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks taste lady for company and jolly jaunts. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021

**MALE**, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no strings attached fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173

**Hi ladies**, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. Text only. Mailbox: 4509325

**LOCAL** 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897

**LIVELY** mature gent, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426821

**CARING**, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426885

**KENT** man, retired engineer, solvent, enjoys holidays, meals out, good conversation, WLTm a slim lady, 60-70, with a GSOH, to share these times and hopefully become friends. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426887

**MALE** 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133

**CARING** sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likewise lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 4258918

**MALE**, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 4623598

**JOHN**, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306

**GAY** guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

**EASY** going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413

**ROB**, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287

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**PROFESSIONAL** gentleman, 64, widowed, own house, loves holidays abroad, reading, eating out, eating in and shows, WLTm a lady of similar age to share interests and happy times together hopefully leading to lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425787

**MALE**, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133

**CARING** sociable, GSOH, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likewise lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. Text only. Mailbox: 4258918

**MALE**, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 4623598

**JOHN**, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306

**GAY** guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

**EASY** going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413

**ROB**, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287

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# Art exhibition's 100 pictures to celebrate Thanet's coastline

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

**A**N art group from Thanet will be holding their annual art exhibition in the church hall where they meet every week.

All Saints Art Group will be holding the Exhibition of Traditional and Contemporary Art featuring pieces made with oils, acrylics, and watercolours over the August Bank Holiday weekend next week.

There will be over 100 pictures for sale and what the group say are "reasonable prices".

The main feature of the exhibition will be a recreation of every bay around the Isle of Thanet, by all 18 members of the art group.

The 18 individual paintings of the coastline will be exhibited around walls of the church hall and will all be for sale. There will be a map of Thanet accompanying the display to show where the bays are and their names.

Art is being used as a big regeneration tool across Thanet and since the Turner Contemporary opened in 2011 on Margate's sea-



**TRADITIONAL:** Mick Cairns portrayal of Margate bay

front, over 1.5 million people have visited the gallery, showing a rise in popularity of art as a leisure activity.

The vision of the Turner Contemporary organisation is Art Inspiring Change, using collaboration, learning, ambition and transformation to give everyone to access to world-class art.

Local historian, Jenny Burgess, will be photographing the paint-

ings and producing pamphlets about all the individual bays of Thanet during the event.

The All Saints Art Group started in October 2013 and they meet every Friday at the All Saints church house in Birchington, where the exhibition is being held.

Opening times for the display are from 10am to 4pm from August 26-28, and is open to every-

one including dogs and kids.

The exhibition is free entry, and there will be refreshments, home-made cakes, tombola and of course, art.

For more information and enquiries on tickets contact Mick Cairns from Midas Leisure - the craft and gift fair organisers across the borough - on 0796622517 or Lesley on 01843 841936.

## Families at one with nature

BLUEWATER is hosting a Nature Fun Day for families on August 25, so kids can learn about the British wildlife in the area.

For tickets visit [blewater.co.uk](http://blewater.co.uk)



## Park presents crafts show

QUEX Park is holding a food, drink and craft show on September 9 and 10 at the Craft Village on the park's estate.

There will also be Kentish food and drinks, and music from the local cadet band.

For more information, contact Jungle Jims via 01843 846305 or [info@jungle-jims.co.uk](mailto:info@jungle-jims.co.uk)

## Can he fix it? Yes he can..

MILKSHAKE Live, The Magic Storybook, starring Bob the Builder and Noddy will be at Dartford's Orchard Theatre on September 17.

Visit [orchardtheatre.co.uk](http://orchardtheatre.co.uk) for tickets.



## Show performs at Ed Fest

THE MARLOWE currently has its first commissioned show, Box Clever, at Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

The story, which was co-commissioned alongside the female-led company, nabakov, tackles love, domestic violence, and the failings of the system.

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## Evening with Boycie

ONLY Fools And Boycie – An intimate evening with John Challis is coming to Gravesend's The Woodville on October 12.

For tickets visit woodville.seatlive.com



## Rock 'n' rolling to cliffs

COUNTRY rock singer Charlie Landsborough is coming to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on Sunday, November 5.

He's released 28 albums and a plethora of singles, as well as recording his own tribute to the Beatles.

Visit charlielandsborough.com for tickets.

## Rock duo on tour again

CHAS and Dave are going back on the road and coming to Margate's Winter Gardens on December 8.

For more information and tickets visit margatewintergardens.co.uk



## Tour tackled online safety

GRAVESEND singer-songwriter Jash has recently returned home following a tour that saw him tackle subjects of discrimination and online safety in schools.

He covered 18 schools in just 10 days, taking to the stage to perform his latest single Now You're Gone.

# English Youth Ballet presents classic tale

By Emily King

emily.king@archant.co.uk

**S**LEEPING Beauty will be performed by the English Youth Ballet at Dartford's Orchard Theatre from August 25-26.

The fairytale follows the life of Princess Aurora, who at her christening is cursed by a wicked witch..

The witch says that Aurora will prick her finger on the needle of a spinning wheel and die. One of her fairy godmother's then changes the curse, to say she will fall asleep for a 100 years unless the curse is broken by her 'true love's kiss'.

She's then whisked off to live in a cabin in the woods with her fairy godmothers in a bid to stop the curse coming true. But their prevention doesn't go to plan.

In the ballet, Monica Tapiador will perform the role of Aurora.

Monica is a Spanish ballerina, who before joining English Youth Ballet as a principal ballerina, she danced with international companies including La Scala in Milan and English National Ballet.

She said: "Being a principal with EYB involves performing the



leading roles in the company's repertoire of five full-length classical ballets and teaching and coaching the young dancers in the cast in each city or town we visit.

"It is one of the most challenging jobs I have ever done but I love it. It is challenging because you are responsible for the progress of the young dancers and also for your own performance and the huge demands of each classical role.

"The role of Aurora is one of the most iconic roles for a female

dancer in all the classical ballets. I think the main challenges is stamina and pacing yourself throughout the three acts.

"One of the toughest sections is the famous Rose Adage in act one as it requires a lot of good balance. Aurora must balance on one foot on pointe without the aid of her partner.

"You rely on your stomach muscles for that."

For more information and tickets visit orchardtheatre.co.uk or call 01322 220000.



**LIFE:** Monica has been a ballerina since her childhood



**HOSTS:** Sleeping Beauty will be performed at the Orchard Theatre

What's On At

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# Discover the world of Georgian cuisine with Olia

Olia Herclues went revisited a Middle Eastern trip she took as a child with her parents for cookbook...

**I**T'S time you got your tastebuds around some Georgian and Azerbaijani flavours, Olia Herclues tells Ella Walker.

"Everybody was so busy with the Middle East, and loving that, that we haven't ripened to the Georgian thing," she states. "I'm quite surprised it took so long," says the writer and food stylist.

Our lack of Georgian love is set to change though, with the release of her second cookbook, *Kaukasis*.

For the book, Olia, 34, returned to the countries that she meandered through on a road trip to visit family in Baku in Azerbaijan, when she was a toddler.

"We drove from the south of Ukraine, through Crimea, took a fer-

ry to Russia and Sochi, and drove through Georgia and into Baku without even warning them. We were just like, 'Oh, shall we go to Baku?' so we drove and it was amazing."

Olia retraced as much of that family trip as possible, gathering recipes and ideas along the way. She toured Georgia and Azerbaijan, going as far as Lankharan on the border.

"We didn't go into Armenia, but I really wanted to go to Nagorno-Karabakh, where my auntie's old house is, but it's probably destroyed now by war," says Olia sadly.

Today, Olia, is bustling around the kitchen of her East-London flat, pickling huge, shiny unripe tomatoes, but, she says, no tomatoes can compare to the ones you get at markets in



**HERITAGE:** Writer and food stylist Olia went back to her roots

the Ukraine and Georgia. "The best tomatoes I've ever tried for sure, they're massive - the size of your head - but flavoursome, juicy, everything you need from a tomato is there."

Georgian and Azerbaijani cooking were woven into Olia's childhood, and growing up in the ex-Soviet Union, where ingredients could be really quite scarce at times.

Meeting home cooks is still something that fascinates Olia, who includes recipes from the people she met on her travels in Kaukasis.

"Especially in rural areas, if you go to visit someone, they will have a massive barrel of cheese that they make every morning and then they salt it, or they make buffalo butter, which is the most delicious thing I've

ever tried - I could have eaten it with a spoon," she remembers.

The markets, particularly in Georgia, are as astounding as the tomatoes, too. "Your mind is blown," says Olia with a grin. "Especially those who love unusual ingredients. You can have little barberries from Tusheti, there's crazy wild plants and mushrooms I've never heard of before, and alycha plums."

For Olia, a season of pop-ups and cookery sessions now awaits as the rest of us slowly come to realise just what we've been missing when it comes to Georgian and Azerbaijani food.

"I can be very organised in the kitchen as a chef, but in life, I tend to be spontaneous."

## Exhibit's cultural icons

**GRAFFITI** artist, Temper, is bringing a collection that celebrates cultural icons loved and lost to Bluewater from August 19 to September 3.

From Amy Winehouse to Muhammad Ali, the Timeless works capture the essence of much missed personalities through the use of spray paint and will be on display at Castle Galleries.

For more information visit [bluewater.co.uk](http://bluewater.co.uk)

## Story of doomed love

**THE** Russian State Opera will perform *Madam Butterfly* at Tunbridge Wells' Assembly Hall Theatre on September 21.

The tale is of the doomed love of an American naval lieutenant and his Japanese bride, set in Japan at the turn of the century.

For more information and tickets visit [assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk](http://assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk) or call 01892 530 613.

## Ode to self-reflection

**SINGER** Nadia Reid is bringing her second album, *Preservation*, to Ramsgate Music Hall on August 23.

An ode to self-reflection and self-betterment, Nadia says the album covers taking back a bit of power, and learning more about herself.

She said: "It's about being ok with who I am in the world, and who I want to be."

For tickets visit [nadiareid.com](http://nadiareid.com)

## Knitted poppy appeal

**TONBRIDGE** and Malling council is calling on knitters to create a poppy carpet display for Remembrance Day.

Thousands of knitted poppies will be needed, and they'll be unveiled at Tonbridge Castle on October 27 to begin this year's poppy appeal.

Poppies need to be handed in by October 23. To find out where, visit [tmbc.gov.uk](http://tmbc.gov.uk). Other councils are running schemes.

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# Enjoy the last days of summer season

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

**T**HE school holidays may feel as if they have only just started, but next weekend will, for many, be the last chance this summer to get out and about before term time begins once again.

The long August bank holiday weekend stretches out before us and, as ever, Kent's glorious season of fun things to do for young and old alike continues.

And you really are once again spoilt for choice with things to do and for all budgets.



For those who have splashed out this summer and want something a little easier on the pocket, then keep your fingers crossed for good weather, as Kent is rich in free entertainment.

From the simple pleasures of heading off to our miles-upon-miles of breathtaking coastline - complete with the choice between sand or shingle - to a walk through beautiful woodland, country lanes or rolling hills, there's plenty of options. Just keep your fingers crossed for good weather.

If you can spare a few quid, then why not pack a picnic? Whether it's a round of cheese sandwiches or a more romantic prepared meal and a bottle of wine - it can turn a gentle stroll or a day building sandcastles into one to become a treasured memory.

Talking of food, why not head out to one of the county's many pubs or restaurants for a meal out? With so many of our eateries now focusing on locally produced food and drink, there's no better time to indulge yourself in all that the Garden of England can provide.

If the sun is out, why not head out to a venue with a view and enjoy a traditional fish and chips overlooking



**FREE:** Why not simply head to the beach and spend the day making sandcastles and paddling (weather permitting)?

the sea, or perhaps some salmon along a riverbank?

If your children or grandchildren are headed back to school soon, why not ease them gently back into the delights of education? There are so many places to visit to get the old grey matter ticking over that you'll be spoilt for choice.

From the splendour of royal residencies from years gone by, to more

recent tales of war-time heroics, there are castles which still bear the scars of conflict of privilege which today open their doors for visitors.

From stepping in the shoes of Winston Churchill at Chartwell, or Anne Boleyn at Chartwell, to discovering the real story behind this summer's big Hollywood blockbuster Dunkirk at Dover Castle, there's plenty to discover to enrich both young and old

minds alike.

And if that's not enough, why not indulge in a little retail therapy?

As the stores begin to get ready for the autumn, there are some great bargains to be had - so check out your local high street and bag yourself a bargain.

You have three days, folks, to enjoy yourself. All you have to do now is decide what you're going to do...



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FATHER  
TIME**

PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD

1	2			3		4		5		6		7
										8		
9		10										
11								12				
13				14			15					
							16					
17							18		19			
		20									21	
22												
				23								

Quick

- Across**

  - 1. Revivify (9)
  - 8. Possess (3)
  - 9. Temporary (11)
  - 11. Outermost (7)
  - 12. Find out (5)
  - 13. Lowest (6)
  - 15. On land (6)
  - 17. Scope (5)
18. Substitute (7)

20. Apathetic (11)

22. Transgress (3)

23. Fervently (9)
- Down**

  - 2. Stray (3)
  - 3. Lift (5)
  - 4. Banished (6)
5. Prickles (7)

6. Act jointly (11)

7. Hypocritical (9)

10. Conspicuous (11)

11. Disconcert (9)

14. Late (7)

16. Would rather (6)

19. Bit (5)

21. Zero (3)

Cryptic

- Across**

  - 1. Hire purchase, perhaps, at times when pupils have least difficulty? (4,5)
  - 8. Was in a hurry to seek election? (3)
  - 9. When there's good reason to become work-shy? (8,3)
  - 11. Drivers aim to miss it (but snooker players at it?) (7)
  - 12. Rhythm came together again (5)
  - 13. Girl let ham go bad (6)
  - 15. The fur shown to belong to me after hesitating (6)
  - 17. A bit of dish with pastry - not half nice! (5)
  - 18. Told off for UK breed mutation (7)
  - 20. A real grilling for the triple graduate? (5,6)
  - 22. Article included amongst others (3)
  - 23. Top entertainer being entertained? (5,4)
- Down**

  - 2. You and I face ancient leader in reverence (3)
  - 3. Roots thrown out by trunk (5)
  - 4. Strip of cloth for covering athlete? (6)
  - 5. Speech defect could stem arm movement (7)
  - 6. Presumably there's no need to offer him a penny for his thoughts! (11)
  - 7. Those are the ones to finish with when getting better! (2,3,4)
  - 10. Quite literally intended for the landlord? (2,3,6)
  - 11. Tolerate as companion when getting accommodation (3,2,4)
  - 14. Get me in the assembly somehow (7)
  - 16. Game to carry one over a gap? (6)
  - 19. Animal noise comes from table (5)
  - 21. Time in another age (3)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter. For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.

2	18	14	11		24		19	24	11	24
	1			25	9	19	10	24	3	18
22	10	6	19	8		17		2	3	1
	13			2		5		21	14	20
9	26	18	9	6	2	9	2		16	14
24			20		11			24		10
3	7	10	9	12	2		21	10	11	9
4		3				16		6		15
5	2	9		19	9	20	10	23	9	1
10		16		5		24		9		10
1	9	9	19	2		19		2	7	9
9		1		11	1	9	24	11		20
19	14	15	2			2			16	14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
			C									
14	15	16		17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
											A	

A  
B  
C  
D  
E  
F  
G  
H  
I  
J  
K  
L  
M  
N  
O  
P  
Q  
R  
S  
T  
U  
V  
W  
X  
Y  
Z

Arrowword

Not current		Quick picture Some or many		Hair product		Hughes, poet Married
Ray... eyewear label				Female sheep Regret		
Spoke roughly						
Large rodent				Compass point		Medicinal quantity
Green, actor in Rat Patrol		Perceive			Decease	
				Much... About Nothing, play		
Vegetarians avoid this		Mancunian Britpop band				
				Short-sleeved shirt		

Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET  
1 x Battleship  
2 x Cruiser  
3 x Destroyer  
4 x Submarine



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A										
B										
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										
I										
J										
	1	3	2	1	2	1	1	3	2	4

Word Spiral

1			2			3
	9			10		
8					11	4
				16		
	13			12		
7			6			5

Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

- 1. Cot
  - 2. Bee's sound
  - 3. Metal
  - 4. Gateau
  - 5. Catch sight of
  - 6. High-pitched bark
  - 7. Rugby forward
  - 8. Select
- 9. Tartan skirt
  - 10. Fish
  - 11. Afresh
  - 12. Desire
  - 13. Cowl
  - 14. Challenge
  - 15. Austen novel
  - 16. Male voice

Keyword clue: An American river

SUDOKU

Hard

	8		5		1		3	
							4	2
		3						
		1	2	5		4		3
	5						1	
9	2		7	3	8			
						7		
1	3							
	7		4		8		5	

Easy

			2					5
2	5		6		9		1	
		4	5		3	8		
		1				7		
	8		9	1	5		3	4
4		3				5	9	
		2	8		7	3		
6	4		3		2		8	
	7		4				5	2

Solutions

**Double Crossword**

Across: 1 Easy terms: 8 Ran: 9 Polishing  
Cryptic: 10 Outrigger: 6 Collaborate: 7 Insincere: 10  
Embarrass: 14  
Overdue: 16 Preter:  
19 Piece: 21 Nil.  
Code word: 1 R, 2 S, 3 C, 4 O, 5 U, 6 N, 7 H, 8 Y, 9 E, 10 I, 11 T, 12 F, 13 Z, 14 O, 15 G, 16 B, 17 L, 18 P, 19 D, 20 L, 21 K, 22 W, 23 V, 24 A, 25 M, 26 X

**Word Spiral**

1 Crib, 2 Buzz, 3 Zinc, 4 Cake, 5 Espy, 6 Yelp, 7 Prop, 8 Pick, 9 Kelp, 10 Turn, 11 Anew, 12 Indifferent, 13 Dare, 15 Emma, 16 Alto, 17 Replac, 18 Range, 19 Ashore, 20 Indifferent, 21 Err, 22 Earnestly, 23 Earnestly, 24 A, 25 M, 26 X

**Battleships**

1 Battleship, 2 Cruiser, 3 Destroyer, 4 Submarine

**Sudoku - Hard**

1 Put up with, 14 Free thinker, 7 On the mend, 10 To the left, 11 Put up with, 12 Awful, 13 Torso, 14 Guest star, 15 Degree, 22 The, 23 Rebut, 20 Third, 21 Piece, 18 Metre, 13 Thelma, 12 Age, 11 Polio, 8 Ran, 9 Polishing

**Sudoku - Easy**

1 Put up with, 14 Free thinker, 7 On the mend, 10 To the left, 11 Put up with, 12 Awful, 13 Torso, 14 Guest star, 15 Degree, 22 The, 23 Rebut, 20 Third, 21 Piece, 18 Metre, 13 Thelma, 12 Age, 11 Polio, 8 Ran, 9 Polishing

**Arrowword**

1 Put up with, 14 Free thinker, 7 On the mend, 10 To the left, 11 Put up with, 12 Awful, 13 Torso, 14 Guest star, 15 Degree, 22 The, 23 Rebut, 20 Third, 21 Piece, 18 Metre, 13 Thelma, 12 Age, 11 Polio, 8 Ran, 9 Polishing



## 3 great places for glamping

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The properties are on the doorstep of the Northumberland International Dark Sky Park, and Beacon Hill has its own purpose built observatory with a range of



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telescopes for viewing the magical night skies plus a spa with indoor heated swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, sauna, gymnasium and beauty salon. A week's break for two starts from £650 up to £700 and a three-night weekend break ranges from £313 to £350. ([www.premiercottages.co.uk](http://www.premiercottages.co.uk), 01670 780900)

### 3 Hop Pickers Hideaway at Hop Pickers Rural Retreats,

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Tucked away in the woodland overlooking the fields towards the magnificent Malvern Hills is Hop Pickers Hideaway, a lovingly hand crafted Shepherd's Hut.

Inside is a fully fitted kitchen, underfloor heating, wood burning stove, king size bed with fine linen, fluffy towels and bathrobes. Outside is a decked balcony with outdoor furniture, fire pit and hot

tub. It's just six miles from The Malvern Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, and home to the famous Malvern Theatre and Morgan Motor factory and is close to plenty of National Trust properties.

A week's stay for two at Hop Pickers Hideaway starts from £600 or a two night weekend break from £280. ([www.premiercottages.co.uk](http://www.premiercottages.co.uk), 01886 833668)

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 address, although these will be  
 withheld in exceptional  
 circumstances, and a daytime  
 phone number for verification  
 (this will not be published). We  
 reserve the right to edit all letters.

## Dreamland left us disappointed

WHEN my niece and her two children visited me from Ireland recently, I suggested a visit to Dreamland would be nice, after hearing about the re-opening of the theme park.

We arrived and parking in the surrounding areas was very difficult, so decided to pay the £7 for Dreamland's own car park.

On arrival at the theme park, we joined many parents with very young children – my niece's children being a boy aged 11 and a girl of 10.

Well, as we wandered around the place my family were not impressed at all.

In fact, after having an ice cream and seeing all the kiddies rides they were ready to leave the place, without going on any rides at all, a total waste of effort.

So off we went to Herne Bay and Reculver and eventually Dover Castle, which saved the day.

My niece, her husband and the two children were very disappointed in Dreamland.

So the next day I took them to Brighton for a day out.

I really thought that Dreamland had so much more to offer families of all ages.

But how wrong I was.

**James Porter,**  
Sittingbourne

## Not last orders yet for our pubs

I WAS delighted to read Chris Murphy's article on micropubs [KoS, last week] and see the celebration of such a wonderful concept.

Time and again we hear that our pubs are closing down and that there is no real future in sight for something so important in Britain's history.

Micropubs are a great example of doing something different to try and succeed in an increasingly-difficult market and I applaud everyone who has taken that step to ensure our communities still have great pubs on offer to local people.

Pubs are a fantastic place to spend an evening or weekend unwinding and, as it seems with some of those referenced in the article, making new friends, which is not always easy once you reach a certain age, I assure you.

It is particularly heartwarming to see that it is Kent taking the lead on this and I hope we will continue to see many more similar establishments opening up over the coming years. Cheers!

**John Chamberlain,**  
Canterbury

## KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

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- 1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
- 2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
- 3) Be written in clear, concise English.

## LETTER OF THE WEEK



## Dunkirk is a hit but Dover has real story

YOUR paper is always a joy to read, especially with Granger and Duff going at each other hammer and tongues in 'your views' section.

In regard to Dunkirk, I too was struck by the realism of the film. It was good to see the involvement of the brave RAF pilots glossed over in previous films.

However, I am of the opinion that a better version can be seen at Dover Castle in Hellfire Corner. Set in the tunnels built originally to repel invasion from the French in the Napoleonic wars, it all takes place many metres underground.

It shows the German build up, Chamberlain's efforts to obtain peace then the preparations for war schools, cinemas and theatres closed; Anderson shelters hastily built in gardens.

It shows how the Germans in 10 days completely surrounded the British and French forces, which triggered Operation Dynamo headed by Admiral Ramsay of the Dover patrol. The video of the

evacuation of the British and French armies is so realistic as to be frightening.

You were there with the army being bombed and strafed. You saw ships being sunk, men being slaughtered without mercy. When all the time for four days the little boats, indeed an armada of such boats, crossing and re-crossing the Channel to land the survivors at Dover and Ramsgate.

The sound effects were realistic and the vibrations from explosions stomach-wrenching. In Dunkirk, the film, the makers concentrated on one boat that found its way to the Dorset coast. Far away from the boats in Kent that bore the brunt of receiving those men. Indeed this is more than adequately portrayed in a continuous video created by the Imperial War Museum and Dover film makers called Operation Dynamo which can be seen at Dover Museum. Compulsive viewing.

**John Gamet**  
Walmer

## Don't cross line on road rules

AM I right or am I wrong; do pedestrians still have the right of way at pedestrian crossings on our streets?

We have a new one here in Herne Bay. Last Sunday six cars drove past at the same speed, whilst I had one foot on the white line at the crossing. I know there have been many changes in my lifetime but I thought that was the same and not changed.

**Pamela Pilbeam,**  
Herne Bay

## Unfair to blame cars for pollution

READER David Spurling [KoS, letters, last week] asks can I reveal my own "scientific background" that is easy, I have none!

But, I can read and disseminate information and know when I am being lied to and ripped-off.

Also how many 'experts' have been proved wrong over the years, or contradicted each other?

Mr Spurling regurgitates the same 29,000 deaths from road vehicle

pollution, usually meaning those at the end of their long lives, which is based on 'modelling', a scientific term for educated guesswork.

He then uses some story about electric vehicles being used in factories because of pollution, which is of course right in a closed environment.

For example could we dispense with domestic gas boiler flues and vent the fumes into our house, we cannot of course, we vent them in the atmosphere for other people to breathe in.

Yet tens of millions do this everyday, does this pollution not count, along with industry, natural pollution and other forms of transport?

There are many causes of pollution, but to blame it all on road vehicles and use this as an excuse to restrict peoples movements, all based on one's wealth, is wrong.

You cannot compare a modern diesel engines with those of the past, when he talks of his long ago past experiences.

Most human activity can cause some negative reaction, but that has to be balanced about the well-bringing it gives to us all.

**Terry Hudson,**  
Whitstable

## Trump is great and so is the US

WHEN Barack Obama was president he made clear that he regarded both France and Germany as more significant allies than the UK, and he tried to interfere in our EU referendum on the side of Remain, while in contrast Donald Trump has spoken of his affection for Britain, stressed the importance of our country to the USA, and applauded our decision to leave the EU.

Nevertheless, many foolish people in this country seize every opportunity to denigrate Mr Trump and to criticise his policies, often by personal attacks on him, not their content.

It is deplorable that now many are seeking to imply that there is a moral equivalence to the stances taken by President Trump and Kim Jong-un.

The latter is the latest in a dynasty of dictators, who have held sway over an oppressed and brainwashed population, while the former is the freely elected leader of the greatest democracy in the world. Should this confrontation result in military conflict the fault will lie with North Korea, not the USA.

The world owes much to the USA, which has so often defended freedom, and those who inveigh against her should consider that for many years she has been our greatest ally against those who wish to destroy us both.

**Colin Bullen,**  
Tonbridge

**We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.**

kent-life.co.uk kentnews.co.uk





## Goodnestone Park Gardens

by **Alan Blackburn**  
from Canterbury

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# UK 2017/2018 Holidays

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# Holidays

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## We Love the 60s Seaside Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 10 November, 2017 - Quote: CP11-1-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for an early taste of Christmas - for over 40s only - as we rock the weekend away to the sounds of the 60s. Our brilliant entertainment programmes feature top 60s bands and tribute acts including Marty Wilde and the Wildcats, Union Gap UK, The New Honeycombs, Dave Grant of Paper Lace and The Beatle (John Lennon tribute). Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and half-price drinks at this rockin' party weekend.

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half board  
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## Lake Bled & Castle Christmas - Slovenia

By Air from Gatwick/Heathrow

21 December, 2017 - Quote: XS12-KOS

Christmas at Lake Bled, Slovenia, is just magical - framed by the snow-capped peaks of the majestic Julian Alps. The highlight will be Christmas Day Lunch in Bled Castle, perched atop a cliff 130 metres above the glacial lake with spellbinding views. Excursions take in a gingerbread factory; Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital; tranquil Lake Bohinj and the opportunity to visit the epic Postojna Caves, Europe's most visited.

**INCLUDED:** Escorted throughout • Return flights with hold baggage from a choice of UK airports - supplement may apply • 7 nights half-board in a 4-star lakeside hotel in Bled • Christmas Day lunch in Bled Castle • All excursions • Transfers abroad

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from  
£949<sup>pp</sup>



## Krakov Christmas Market & Zakopane Winter Wonderland

By Air from Gatwick/Stansted/Heathrow

4 December, 2017 - Quote: KZ12-KOS

Join us for a festive visit to Poland where Christmas is more traditional and your pound goes further. We fly to Krakow, where we stay for 2 nights in a 4-star centrally-located hotel, taking in the Christmas Market and all the sights this pretty city has to offer, such as Wawel Royal Castle and the huge 10-acre Main Market Square. We will also stay 2 nights in Zakopane, in the heart of Poland's winter sports region, where the highlight of our trip will be a \*Sleigh ride followed by a traditional folklore dinner with live music.

**INCLUDED:** Escorted throughout abroad • Return flights with hand luggage from Stansted, Gatwick or Heathrow to Krakow - supp't may apply • 2 nights B&B at the 4-Star Golden Tulip Kazimierz Hotel, Krakow, sharing a twin/ double en-suite bedroom with TV, tea/coffee tray and free wifi • 2 nights B&B at the 3-Star Czarny Potok Hotel, Zakopane, sharing a twin/ double en-suite bedroom • A Folklore evening with dinner in Krakow • Sleigh Ride & Folklore dinner with music in Zakopane • All excursions • Transfers abroad

\*If there is no snow the Sleigh ride will be replaced by a horse and carriage ride.

5 days  
from  
£649<sup>pp</sup>



## Rhine New Year Party River Cruise

Cologne, Koblenz & Rüdesheim

By Rail from Ebbsfleet or Air from Gatwick

29 December, 2017 - Quote: RN12-KOS

Welcome in the New Year with the splendours and stunning scenery along the Rhine on this relaxing river cruise on board the 4-star Mps Switzerland II which hosts you in style with all meals, selected free drinks plus sparkling wine and spirits on New Year's Eve, and entertainment in an informal, fun & friendly atmosphere. This holiday visits the famous towns of Cologne, Koblenz, and Rüdesheim where we welcome in the New Year with a celebration dinner and entertainment.

**INCLUDED:** Entertainment • Beer, wine by the glass, and soft drinks served at lunch and dinner and from 10am to 1am at the bar • Escorted rail travel from St Pancras and Ebbsfleet OR return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4-nights full board cruise on the 4-star MPS Switzerland II • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

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**MAKEOVER:** The restyled flagship crossover comes with a number of new features



## Nissan's upgraded X-Trail now more family friendly

NISSAN'S restyled, upgraded X-Trail flagship crossover, the world's best-selling sport utility vehicle, is now on sale.

Improvements to the five or seven-seat X-Trail, designed to enhance quality and refinement, have come from listening to customer feedback to focus on its position as a family car.

A redesigned cabin sees boot space grow from 550 to 565 litres on five-seat versions and there's more rear legroom – seven-seat boot remain 445 litres – and total space with all seats folded rises to 1,996 litres.

Exterior upgrades include a wider version of Nissan's 'V-motion' grille, a new front bumper in body colour and smart new gloss black finish.

At the back there's a more robust-looking rear bumper, with chrome detailing, and new LED rear lights.

Inside there's a new D-shaped steering wheel, which Nissan says will make getting in and out of the driver's seat easier. Top-spec Tekna customers can choose a new tan and black leather upholstery, while heated front and rear seats are now available and standard on range-topping Tekna.

Tekna models also get an all-new eight-speaker Bose Premium audio system. DAB radio is now standard across the range, and the NissanCon-



nect touchscreen system has been redesigned to be easier to use.

Forthcoming ProPilot autonomous drive technology will control steering, acceleration and braking in a single lane on highways using lane keep assist, intelligent cruise control and traffic jam pilot.

The three turbo charged engine options are the same – 163PS 1.6-litre petrol and 130PS 1.6-litre and 177PS 2.0-litre diesels.

The X-Trail has sold more than 3.7 million units worldwide since being introduced in 2000 with some 115,000 sold in Europe since the latest generation went on sale in 2014.





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\*Renault Finance, PO Box 149, Watford, WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Indemnities may be required. UK residents (excl. Channel Islands) and over 18s only. Requires minimum deposit of 25% on All-New KOLEOS. †The service plan must be carried out in line with the manufacturer's servicing requirements, it cannot be transferred and does not cover wear-and-tear items, such as tyres, brakes and wipers. Mileage and vehicle age limitations apply. ^To enter the drive of a lifetime competition, book a test drive via [renault.co.uk/ultimatetestdrive](http://renault.co.uk/ultimatetestdrive). Eligible entrants must be aged 22-65. 3-2-1 offer applies to all Renault vehicles (excluding Clio Expression, Twingo & ZOE) when ordered and registered by 30th September 2017. Retail customers only. Participating dealers only. See full terms and conditions at [renault.co.uk/321](http://renault.co.uk/321).

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**Book a test-drive**



# Diesel cloud may have silver lining for greener motoring

I feel rather sorry for the owners of diesel cars who are increasingly concerned about the current furore surrounding emissions which is affecting future resale values.

There's no question we have all got to do something to put a brake on pollution and improve air quality but, all of a sudden, it seems to be a case of demonising diesel vehicles.

Now the government has announced sales of new petrol and diesel vehicles will be banned from 2040.

I'm not worried about whether the car-makers can hit that deadline, I'm more concerned whether the 'establishment' can create the charging infrastructure that will be needed to keep so many electric cars on the road.

But there's also a lot of misunderstanding, even misinformation, about diesel power. I've had concerned owners asking if they should sell their diesel car now, fearing values will plummet.

Adding to the furore is a 'toxicity



ANDY RUSSELL

Follow me on Twitter @andyrussellauto

tax' of £10 a day for old diesels – and petrol cars – in central London weekdays 7am to 6pm, on top of the £11.50 congestion charge, from October 23 for cars, vans, mini-buses, buses, coaches and lorries.

Diesel cars are more polluting than petrol, producing more of the tiny particles and nitrogen oxides (NOx) that are linked to asthma as well as to heart and lung diseases. But the key word in these new air-pollution measures is 'old' because London's new anti-pollution levy will apply to those diesel and petrol vehicles more than 10 years old – many of which do not

meet Euro 4 emission standards for various toxins in exhaust emissions.

Diesel engines produce less carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) – the greenhouse gas responsible for global warming – but, typically, 10 times as much nitrogen dioxide as a petrol equivalent. Old diesel cars also produce a lot more particles and pollutants.

At the end of 2015 there were more than nine million Euro 4 cars, fewer now as they come to the end of the road, but two-thirds were petrol.

Cars are now governed by very



Many Euro 6 diesel vehicles have a separate AdBlue tank to counteract harmful emissions. Pictures: PA/Andy Russell

stringent Euro 6 standards and many diesels inject AdBlue liquid – 32.5% urea and 67.5% deionised water – from a separate tank into the exhaust system to break down soot and unburnt fuel, turning them into harmless water and nitrogen.

We're currently encouraged to choose 'low-emission' cars but,

while every manufacturer quotes CO<sub>2</sub> figures, it's not so easy to find out NOx figures.

The silver lining of this cloud of diesel car uncertainty is that, while 2040's ban is still nearly 23 years away, it will make drivers think about their motoring needs and start considering electric or, initially at least, hybrid cars.

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEOM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

## Housekeeper - Margate

**Part Time – 20 hours per week**      **Salary £7.69 per hour**

**Closing Date – 25 August 2017**      **Interview Date – TBC**

### Qualifications and Experience

- Previous housekeeping experience (preferably within a clinical environment)
- Previous experience in a customer facing role
- Good working knowledge of Word/Excel/Outlook
- Mathematics and English (GCSE or equivalent) Grade C or above
- Ability to recognize and report situations affecting patient care
- Able to work independently and as part of a team
- Outstanding communication and motivational skills
- Committed to providing excellence in service

To discuss these opportunities, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:  
Liz Justice, Ward Manager on 01843 235012

## Health Care Assistant OPD - Margate

**Full Time – 37.5 hours per week**      **Salary £8.50 per hour**

**Closing Date – 25 August 2017**      **Interview Date – 15 September 2017**

### Qualifications and Experience

- NVQ II in Healthcare or equivalent experience
- Maths and English (GCSE or equivalent) Grade C or above
- Previous experience in an acute hospital setting
- Demonstrable experience of patient centered
- Previous experience liaising with clients and other members of a multi disciplinary team

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:  
Carolyn Flegg, Outpatients Manager on 01843 234569

*Previous applicants need not apply*

For job descriptions and application forms please visit our website:

[www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers](http://www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers)

Alternatively, please contact Carina Pieries, HR Assistant:

Telephone: 01304 222687 or E-mail: [recruitment@spencerhospitals.com](mailto:recruitment@spencerhospitals.com)

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## IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE

### LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

#### HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

#### STOPPING UP OF LAND AT 222/224 BULL LANE ECCLES ME20 7HW

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Medway Magistrates' Court on 25/09/2017 at 13:45 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at 222/224 Bull Lane Eccles ME20 7HW as coloured red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Carissa Humphreys by post to Invicta Law Limited, Priory Gate, 29 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1PT, by email [highwaydefinitionsearches@kent.gov.uk](mailto:highwaydefinitionsearches@kent.gov.uk), or by telephone 03000 416285 before 11 September 2017 quoting reference number CHU/PH/KEN002:000001.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Carissa Humphreys using the contact details shown above.

ROGER WILKIN  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS,  
TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE

#### HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 – SECTION 116

#### STOPPING UP OF LAND AT ST LAWRENCE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL

I AM GIVING NOTICE THAT The Kent County Council as Highway Authority for the County of Kent propose to make an application to the Magistrates' sitting at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court on 22/09/2017 at 10:00 for an Order under Section 116 of the Highways Act 1980 to extinguish highway rights on the grounds that they are unnecessary on land at St Lawrence Church of England Primary School as coloured red on the plan on deposit.

A copy of the draft order and the plan referred to are on deposit, and can be seen during normal office hours, at the main reception of The Kent County Council at Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XQ.

Any person to whom this Notice has been given or who uses the highway specified or who would be aggrieved by the making of the Order may appear before the Magistrates' Court to raise an objection or make a representation on the application. Any person intending to appear before the Magistrates' Court at the hearing of the application is requested to inform Carissa Humphreys by post to Invicta Law Limited, Priory Gate, 29 Union Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1PT, by email [highwaydefinitionsearches@kent.gov.uk](mailto:highwaydefinitionsearches@kent.gov.uk), or by telephone 03000 416285 before 8 September 2017 quoting reference number CHU/PH/KEN002:000018.

If you require further information or would like to discuss this matter, please contact Carissa Humphreys using the contact details shown above.

ROGER WILKIN  
DIRECTOR OF HIGHWAYS,  
TRANSPORTATION AND WASTE

### OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITHIN FARMING ENVIRONMENT

**National Milk Records plc** is looking for enthusiastic people to become **part-time, self-employed** Milk Recorders, visiting dairy farms in East Kent. The work involves taking individual cow milk samples during milkings and updating herd records onto a laptop.

Hours will be variable but the work will take up approx. 6 early mornings and 6 afternoons per month and applicants must have their own transport. A perfect position if you enjoy the outdoor life and approx. earnings £450-£500 per month.

Please contact: [lindseyd@nmr.co.uk](mailto:lindseyd@nmr.co.uk) for more details.  
Closing date: 25/08/2017

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### LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES



#### A2 TRUNK ROAD (BRENLEY CORNER – WHITFIELD ROUNDABOUT) TEMPORARY TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS

Notice is hereby given that Highways England Company Limited has made an Order on the A2 Trunk Road in the County of Kent, under Section 14(1)(a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 because works are proposed to be executed on the road.

The effect of the Order will be to authorise:-

- the phased overnight closure of:
  - both carriageways of the A2 between Brenley Corner (M2 Junction 7) and Whitfield Roundabout (A256);
  - the slip roads leading to and from the carriageways described in i) above;
  - any side road at junction with the carriageways described in i) above;
  - the dedicated right-turn lanes leading from the carriageways described in i) above; and
  - the gaps between the carriageways described in i) above.
- the 24-hour closure of:
  - any lay-by adjacent to the carriageways described in a) i) above; and
  - the road leading to the coast-bound carriageway of the A2 at Patricbourne Junction (A2050).

These measures are in the interests of road safety while contractors undertake resurfacing, drainage, lighting, electrical, signage works, bridge joints and all associated works.

It is expected that the work will last for approximately 12 weeks starting on or after Monday 4th September 2017. The overnight closures will take place between 20:00 and 06:00 (maximum period).

The Order will come into force on 2 September 2017 and have a maximum duration of eighteen months. Traffic affected by the closures will be diverted using the A28, A256, A257, A290, A299 and A2050.

The temporary closures and diversion routes will be clearly indicated by traffic signs when they are in operation during the works period.

Access to properties and businesses will be maintained by escort.

**M Taylor**, an Official of Highways England Co Ltd.  
Ref: HE/SE/2017/A2/143

Highways England Company Limited,  
(Company No. 9346363), Registered Office: Bridge House, Walnut Tree Close, Guildford, Surrey, GU1 4LZ. A company registered in England and Wales.

For enquiries, please contact the Customer Contact Centre on 0300 123 5000 or [info@highwaysengland.co.uk](mailto:info@highwaysengland.co.uk)  
<http://www.highways.gov.uk>

### LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

#### Section 17 Licensing Act 2003

#### Licensing Act 2003: Application for a new Premises Licence

Notice is hereby given that **Stuart Grant Cameron** has applied to the Dover District Council on **28th July 2017** for a new premises licence for **The Booking Hall, Old Harbour Station, Elizabeth Street, Dover, Kent CT17 9FE.**

The proposed application is to permit *the provision of regulated entertainment and the sale by retail of alcohol.*

Any person who wishes to make a representation in relation to this application must give notice in writing of his/her representation by **8th September 2017 (28 days the day after the application is received by the licensing department)** stating the grounds for making said representation to: Licensing Service,

Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover CT16 3PJ.

The public register where applications are available to be viewed by members of the public can be accessed online by visiting at [www.dover.gov.uk](http://www.dover.gov.uk) Licensing and following the link to the public register.

The Licensing Authority must receive representations by the date given above. The Licensing Authority will have regard to any such representation in considering the application. It is an offence, under section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003, to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in or in connection with an application for premises licence and the maximum fine on being convicted of such an offence is an unlimited fine.

**Stephen Thomas LAW,**

**Solicitors for the Applicant,**

**8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent ME19 5QP**

#### Licensing Act 2003

#### Application for a premises licence variation

**Name of Applicant:** Mr Ilesh V Patel

**Premises:** West Street Newsagents Ltd – 54-56 West St Sittingbourne Kent ME10 1AR

**Existing Licensable activities:** Sale of alcohol Mon – Sun 06:00 until 23:00

**Proposed Licensable activities:** (1)

Removal of condition - No beers, lager or cider will be sold above 5.5% ABV (2) Extension of hours for sale of alcohol Mon – Sun 05:30 until 23:0

**End of Consultation period:**

Any objections to this application must be made in writing to The Licensing Department

Swale Borough Council

Swale House

East Street

Sittingbourne

Kent, ME10 3HT

Objections must be received within 28 days of the date of this notice.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. Any person who makes a false statement is liable, on summary conviction, to a maximum fine of £5,000

To both of you on your  
**30th Birthdays**  
**JASON YOUNG PICKERING**  
on 13th August  
**AMY CHIN nee Wood**  
on 17th August  
With love always  
Hubbard, Pops, Hannah,  
Ava-Rae and Woody  
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# Crouch backs bid for 50-metre pool

Sports minister supports campaign for Olympic-sized facility

## Swimming

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THE sports minister has thrown her weight behind a campaign working to deliver a 50-metre swimming pool in Kent.

Clubs and parents told KoS last week they were having to make long journeys several times a week to London, Sussex, Essex or Surrey to allow budding swimmers to train in Olympic-sized facilities - unavailable anywhere in the county.

For some youngsters in the east of Kent, their nearest pool geographically is actually across the Channel in France, such is the distance they have to travel to access a 50m facility in the UK.

Consequently, campaigners feared the most promising talent was being "held back" by the lack of a suitable pool and were often placed at a disadvantage when competing against swimmers from other counties, who train over a 50m length regularly.

However, councils in Kent have been reluctant to rubber-stamp plans for a pool of that size over concerns it would be underused, and could cost millions of pounds at a time where local government funding is being slashed year-on-year.

Instead, club chiefs have argued that unless a wealthy sponsor steps forward, the county's universities should fund such facilities, suggesting they too would benefit by attracting a wider pool of students who enjoy swimming.

Neither the University of Kent nor Canterbury Christ Church said they



**INFLUENCE:** Tracey Crouch

have any plans for a pool at this stage. Sports minister Tracey Crouch, who is also MP for Chatham and Aylesford, was identified by campaigners as a potentially key figure in the fight for a larger facility, and this week she told KoS the bid had her backing.

"I think every county should have a 50m pool and Kent is no excep-

tion," she said.

"There are talented young swimmers who would clearly benefit from having an Olympic size pool nearby and I was pleased to be part of a meeting involving many partners to try and get this to happen.

"It is for them to make it all come together but they know they have my support."

## Archery prospect on target for Tokyo 2020

### Olympics

A PROMISING archery prospect has moved one step closer to representing his country at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo after receiving a funding boost from his college.

Ryan Holden, 19, was handed a £500 cheque from East Kent College to support his development, after recently competing as part of Team GB in the European Youth Cup in Porec, Croatia.

The Broadstairs campus apprentice is currently working towards his Level 3 NVQ in Plumbing and Heating but growing costs have proved a stumbling block in his quest towards Japan in three years' time.

Principal of East Kent College, Broadstairs campus, Paul Manning, [kentnews.co.uk](http://kentnews.co.uk) [kent-life.co.uk](http://kent-life.co.uk)



**TALENT:** Ryan Holden and Paul Manning

said: "Ryan's shown immense commitment to his archery and we obviously wanted to show our

support for this.

"As one of our students we've seen him develop his skills and know how diligently he works on every task he undertakes.

"It's wonderful to support his talent competing for Team GB, and we're very proud of his accomplishments."

Mr Holden is now aiming to compete in the World Championships in October following a successful summer of selection events with the last one starting on Monday.

The championships will be taking place in Argentina, making sponsorship of great importance.

The teenager said: "I'm passionate about my sport, and this funding will really help me as I continue down the road to Tokyo 2020. I've had a great summer season, and am feeling really well prepared to go forward."

East

## Sport Shorts

» Email [sports@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:sports@kosmedia.co.uk) or call Tom Pyman on 01233653477

## Bell-Drummond and Denly hit world record

KENT'S opening pair of Joe Denly and Daniel Bell-Drummond compiled a world-record T20 opening partnership of 207 in their clash with Essex this week.

Denly led the carnage with 127 from 66 balls, including 11 fours and seven sixes, beating his own Kent record score of 116. The stand with Bell-Drummond, who was unbeaten at the end on 80, was the third highest for any wicket in the history of the competition.

It also beat the 163, a Kent record for any wicket at the time, the same two batsmen put on earlier in the season against Surrey at the Oval.

Denly admitted he was surprised to be given a standing ovation by the Chelmsford crowd.

"It's probably one of the most hostile places to come," he said.

"But I got a very special feeling walking off with 127 to my name and to have everyone standing up and applauding was a great moment. "I'm delighted with my partnership with Daniel at the top. To get a world record is something very special."



**STAR:** Kent's Joe Denly



**HOME:** Priestfield will host Gillingham Ladies this afternoon

## First ladies match at Priestfield in 3 years

GILLINGHAM Ladies will return to Priestfield today for the first time in almost three years.

The team last played at the club's home ground in December 2014, but following a new arrangement, supporters will be able to see them take on West Ham United Ladies at 2pm.

Manager Jack Wheeler guided his side to the South East Division One

title last season and will be hoping a return to Priestfield will spur his squad on even further.

He said: "Having the chance to play at Priestfield is an exciting prospect. The chairman has been very supportive and we hope plenty of fans will come along. They have trained extremely hard, there is a good spirit in the dressing room and we are ready for the season ahead."

## Pennock snaps up centre-back

GILLINGHAM have completed the signing of former Cardiff City and Crewe Alexandra defender Ben Nugent on a one-year deal.

The 24-year-old arrives at Priestfield after leaving Crewe at the end of last season and will give the Gills management some much-needed options at the back.

Nugent said: "I spoke to the

manager a couple of weeks ago and he invited me in to come and train and thankfully he liked what he saw and I'm glad to have signed."

Boss Andy Pennock added: "We're a little bit short on centre-backs and with Ben it's a case of he does what it says on the tin. He's a winner, he's played a lot of games and he's the type of character we need."

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